



CAROLINE MATILDA,
Queen of Denmark.



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Queen of Denmark.

206. 15. Oct. 1764.

M E M O I R S

OF AN
Caroline Matilda K.
Unfortunate Queen.

of Denmark
Consort of H. Christian. VII.
INTERSPERSED WITH

L E T T E R S

(WRITTEN BY HERSELF)

TO SEVERAL OF

Her illustrious Relations and Friends,

ON

VARIOUS SUBJECTS AND OCCASIONS.

Quis talia fando
Temperet & lacrymis

VIRG.

THE SECOND EDITION.

L O N D O N,

Printed for J. Bzw, in Pater-Noster-Row.

1776.

W. Musgrave.



THE SECOND EDITION.

L O N D O N

Printed for J. Bury, in Pall-mall.

1770

MEMOIRS

OF AN

UNFORTUNATE QUEEN.

THE unhappy princess, whose wrongs and misfortunes will make the theme of the following sheets, was the posthumous child of his Royal Highness Frederic, late Prince of Wales. She was born July 22, 1751, four months and eight days after the death of her father, and christened Caroline-Matilda.—Had the nativity of this royal infant been cast, no astrologer, ever so ominous, would

B have

have foretold that she was to be run down from the highest prospect of worldly grandeur, into a sea of troubles, and become, in her bloom, the sport of fortune, and the victim of merciless envy.

This amiable princess, from her tender years, displayed the most endearing vivaciousness, and a sweetness of temper sure to engage the affection of her attendants: when she attained the age of discernment, her heart and her mind became susceptible of the most generous sentiments, and all the instructions calculated to shine in the highest sphere with reputation and dignity. She was well read in modern history; conversant with geography; spoke, with correctness, elegance, and fluency, French and German; and understood Latin. Her diction, in English, was pure; and her elocution graceful. She could, with facility, repeat the most admired passages of our dramatic poets, and often rehearsed

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heard, with great judgment and propriety, whole scenes of Shakespear's most admired plays.

Her person was above the middle size, and, though well shaped, rather inclined to what the French call *embonpoint*: her face was a regular oval; and her eyebrows, arched with symmetry, added sweetness and expression to her beautiful eyes. Her lips and her teeth exhibited the lively colours of coral, and the whiteness of alabaster. She had a good complexion, though not so fair as the royal family; and her hair was of a light chestnut. Her voice was sweet and melodious, and her aspect rather gracious than majestic; but she had, *tout ensemble*, a most prepossessing physiognomy.

Several indigent families at Kew, where this charming princess was not so much restrained by the *etiquette* of a court as in the capital, have experienced her beneficence and liberality, and often

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found relief from her privy purse.—A few of her letters, that have fallen into the hands of the editor, will shew to what proficiency she had attained in the epistolary stile.

To Lady B—— M——.

“DEAR B——,

“SINCE you have left Richmond, I have much improved my little copyhold in Kew-Gardens, and made a great proficiency in the knowledge of exotics. I miss often your company, not only for your pretty chat, but for your approbation in my hortulane embellishments. This, you will say, is selfishness and vanity to the highest degree. Are we not all feeble mortals, a compound of both? You know we have but a narrow circle of amusements, that we can sometimes vary, but never enlarge. How long do you intend to plague me by your absence?

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sence? It is ungenerous, as I cannot come to you. I wish often the title of Royal Highness should lie dormant, to jaunt with you like a pert *Cit*. I expect when I see you to have a faithful account of all your summer's excursions; and, to conclude princely, *Dieu vous ait dans sa sainte garde!* Your faithful friend,

CAROLINE."

To Lady C—— F——.

"MADAME,

"J'AI commencé un cours de belles lettres en François, a la portée d'une personne qui veut passer pour avoir de la lecture, sans avoir le manie d'être savante. Les ouvrages que j'ai choisi, sont ceux de Voltaire, Crebillon le fils, Marivaux, et Fontenelle, qui selon moi ont tous un mérite original dans leur genre.--Enough of French. As I find more instruction and more entertainment in your agreeable conversa-

B 3

tion,

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tion, than in the writings of conceited authors, who censure, moralize, reason, or advance facts and opinions, without answering the doubts and objections of their readers, I beg you will indulge me with this pleasure and satisfaction as often as you conveniently can. I am not philosopher enough to give up the society of my friends for books; and, indeed, my sex and my age are entitled to some prating. May I have, like you, the talent to tell *de jolis riens*; and to speak with sense and knowledge, without appearing scientific, is the sincere wish of your affectionate

CAROLINE."

To Lady S—— S——.

"MY DEAR S——,

"SINCE you have made the *petite tour*, I expect you will give me a faithful account of all the high and mighty Minheers,

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Minheers, Fraws, and Alteſſes, by whom you have been entertained in Holland and Germany. Like all travellers, you are entitled to a grain of allowance. I believe, like moſt of our countrymen, you think, after all, our country is the beſt to live in; or, as a Frenchman ſays, *ces bonnes gens aiment leur païs*. I hope you have received ſome declaration of love, uttered with the Germanic ſincerity; and that you have not betrayed, *a l'Anglois*, ſome *ennui* at the courts of their Royal and Serene Highneſſes of Orange and Brunſwick. By the by, theſe princes are not ſorry that their conſorts add to their pompous titles that of Royal, which, as it is given them jointly and plurallſy, will, upon failure of love, ſummon pride againſt a divorce. Let me know when you intend to pay me a friendly viſit, as I diſpenſe you heartily with the *etiquette* of courts. I believe

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you have no doubt of my veracity, when
I subscribe myself

Your faithful friend,

CAROLINE."

*To Her Royal Highness A——, Princess
of B——k.*

"MADAM, AND SISTER,

"I AM happy to hear that you are
safe arrived at B——k, and that the
compliments of the nobility and gentry
of the d——y, on your auspicious mar-
riage, &c. are now at an end. It is
really a hard task to receive graciously a
crowd of people you never saw, were
you ever so fatigued and indisposed. I
shall not ask you to impart to me the
observations you have made in your tra-
vels, as the European Princesses, who
are obliged to live in a perpetual exile
for the sake of a husband, are not even
indulged

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indulged to stop where and when they please, to satisfy their curiosity, when sent upon a matrimonial errand. Pray let me know how you like your operas and ridottos. I have nothing new to tell you. What may be expected in a court, is only to diversify *Pennui*. All the august family are well. I beg to be remembered to his Serene Highness, and that you will do me the favour to believe, that neither absence nor distance will ever cause the least alteration in my sisterly love.

Your most affectionate,

CAROLINE."

*To His Royal Highness EDWARD, Duke
of YORK.*

"SIR, AND BROTHER,

"YOU are now in a kingdom that I should like to see, in preference to all

the countries in Europe, though I am sure my curiosity will never be indulged in that respect. You may, perhaps, attribute this desire to the levity of our sex, which has a strong analogy to the volatile genius of the French. No—my motive is, that I should be glad to see at home those people who have been, for so many centuries past, our rivals in arts and arms. Pray write to me a good account of Paris, which, I am informed, must yield the precedency to modern London. When you go to the South of France, I am so unreasonable as to expect another account of the provinces. Take care of your health, and let not all the Princesses of Europe make you forget

Your most affectionate

CAROLINE."

To

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*To Her Royal Highness the Princess MARY,
of HESSE-CASSEL.*

"MADAM, AND GOOD AUNT,

"I GIVE your Royal Highness my most sincere thanks for your congratulation upon my approaching marriage; but really I do not know whether we are not rather objects of pity than envy, when we are politically matched with Princes whom we never saw, and may not, perhaps, find in us those charms, which, if even real, are too often eclipsed by the beauties of a court set off with national partiality. I am sensible of the honour his Majesty of Denmark has done me, by singling me out among so many amiable Princesses, perhaps more worthy of his choice; but my youth and inexperience make me apprehensive of not filling the highest station of a kingdom according to the expectations of

B 6 subjects,

subjects, who seldom think themselves obliged to us for the little good we do, and always impute to us part of their grievances. However, as my scruples will not in the least avail, I shall do my best to please the King, and to conciliate the affections of his subjects. I am glad that this alliance is an additional affinity to your Royal Highness, of whom I am

The loving niece,

CAROLINE."

*To Her Royal Highness the Princess-
Dowager of WALES.*

"MADAM, AND REVERED MOTHER,

"GIVE me leave to condole with your Royal Highness, on the loss of your dutiful son, and my beloved brother, the Duke of York. I feel, with my own grief, your sorrow. I beg you will convey the same sentiments to his Majesty
the

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the King, my brother. When I reflect on the circumstances of the untimely death of this amiable Prince, in a foreign land, and perhaps deprived of the comfort and assistance he should have found in his native country, I still more lament his fate. I am extremely concerned for your Royal Highness's indisposition; but I hope this melancholy event, which maternal tenderness cannot but severely feel, as it was ordered by the unfathomable decrees of Providence, will be so far reconciled to your superior understanding and piety, as to adore and to submit. I am, with great deference,

Madam, and Revered Mother,

Your Royal Highness's
respectful daughter,

CAROLINE.

The above letters shew that this Princess wrote in an easy pretty style, without study and affectation. Her conversation

tion was equally endearing and lively. She was condescending, with dignity; and gracious, without submitting to be familiar.

As she had never been farther from the metropolis than Windsor, before she went abroad to be sacrificed on the altar of inauspicious Hymen, she said once to the Princess Amelia, previous to her journey to Bath, " I wish most
" heartily that I could obtain permission to accompany you, as nothing
" would give me more pleasure and satisfaction than to travel in my native
" country; but this indulgence I cannot expect, since Princesses of the
" royal blood, like Cockneys, seldom
" go beyond the limits of the bills of mortality." " I should think myself
" very happy," answered her Royal Highness, " were this exception to be
" made in my favour; but I dare say
" it will not be long before you see
" more of England, and some foreign
" country

“country into the bargain.” “I
 “guess what you mean,” replied the
 Princess Caroline; “but perhaps it would
 “be more happy for me to remain as I
 “am, than to go so far for a Prince I
 “never saw.—To be, or not to be, that’s
 “the question.”

When this conversation happened, the King of Denmark had demanded the Princess in marriage. Whether the picture of the young monarch had not conveyed to her mind the idea of the man she might fancy, or that she looked upon her destination as an honourable exile into the frozen regions of the north, it is certain, that her future elevation to a throne, which she was fit to adorn, inspired her Royal Highness with no pleasing sensations. On the contrary, it was observed by the ladies of her attendance, after this alliance was declared, that she became pensive, reserved, and disquiet-
 ed,

ed, though always gracious, without taking upon herself more state, or requiring more homage from the persons admitted into her presence.

This amiable and ill-fated Princess, who had but lately entered the sixteenth year of her age, was married by proxy in the royal chapel at St. James's, October 1, 1766, to Christian VII. and thus was forced, by royal injunction, to enter into the first solemn covenant of her future woes. The usual compliments on these occasions forced from the young Queen smiles of condescension, whilst her mind was agitated with divers doubts and apprehensions, the natural impulse of her sensibility.

Her tears, in parting from the Royal Family, and the dear country in which she had breathed her first, were the affecting tribute that her Majesty paid to gratitude, affection, and friendship. She tried in vain to divert her tender regrets

on

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on the road from London to Harwich, by the various objects which she met in her progress; and, when she arrived at the place of embarkation, her sobbing breast found at last some ease and comfort in a flood of tears. Before she took her last farewell of the British shore, she wrote to the Duke of York the following letter :

“SIR, AND DEAR BROTHER,

“I HAVE just time enough to write you these few lines from England. If patriotism consists in the love of our country, what I feel now at the sight of that element, which, in a few hours, shall convey me far from this happy land, gives me a just claim to that virtue. Perhaps you men, who boast of more fortitude, call this sensibility weakness, as you would be ashamed to play the woman on such an occasion; but, in wishing you all the temporal felicity this life can afford, I confess, all the philosophy
I am

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I am mistress of cannot hinder me from
concluding, with tears in my eyes,

Sir, and dear brother,

Your most affectionate sister,

CAROLINE."

The observations the young Queen
made in her progress through some parts
of Germany, the honours paid her Ma-
jesty on her arrival on the frontiers of
Denmark, and her reception in the ca-
pital, with the opinion she had conceived
of the court, the Royal Family, the
country, and its inhabitants, are fully
explained in another letter, written to the
same Royal Personage, after five weeks
residence in that kingdom.

"Copenhagen, Dec. 25, 1766.

"SIR, AND DEAR BROTHER,

"AS this epistle will exceed the bounds
of a common letter, you may call it
Travels

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Travels through part of Germany and Denmark, with some cursory remarks on the genius and manners of the people.

“ Our navigation, though fortunate enough, seemed to me tedious and uncomfortable. I almost wished a contrary wind had driven me back to that coast from which I had sailed with so much regret. Were I a man, I think I should not envy you the mighty post of Admiral, as I am a true coward on the main. Though I found the opposite shore very different from that of England, in regard to populousness, agriculture, roads, and conveniencies for travelling, I was glad to be safely landed, and vowed to Neptune never to invade his empire, only wishing, that he would be graciously pleased to let me have another passage to the Queen of the Isles. What I have seen of Germany exhibits a contrast of barren lands, and some few cultivated spots, here and there

there some emaciated cattle, inhospitable forests, castles with turrets and battlements, out of repair, half-inhabited by Counts and Barons of the Holy Empire, wretched cottages, multitudes of soldiers, and a few husbandmen; pride and ceremonial on one side, slavery and abjection on the other.

“As for principalities, every two or three hours I entered the dominions of a new Sovereign: and, indeed, often I passed through the place of their Highnesses residence, without being able to guess that it was the seat of these little potentates; I only judged, by the antiquity of their palaces, falling to ruins, that these Princes may justly boast of a race of illustrious progenitors, as it seemed they had lived there from time immemorial. As we judge of every thing by comparison, I observed, that there is more comfort, more elegance, more conveniency, in the villa of a citi-

zen

zen of London, than in these gloomy mansions, hung up with rotten tapestry, where a Serene Highness *meurt d'ennui*, in all the state of a monarch, amongst a few attendants, called Master of the Horse, *Grand Ecuyer*, *Grand Chambellan*, without appointments.—There is no such thing here as a middle class of people living in affluence and independence.

“ Both men and women of fashion affect to dress more rich than elegant. The female part of the burghers families at Hamburgh and Altena dress inconceivably fantastic. The most unhappy part of the Germans are the tenants of little needy Princes, who squeeze them to keep up their own grandeur. These petty Sovereigns, ridiculously proud of titles, ancestry, and show, give no sort of encouragement to the useful arts, though industry, application, and perseverance, are the characteristics of the
German

German nation, especially the mechanical part of it.

“ The roads are almost impassable, the carriages of the nobility and gentry infinitely worse than the stage-coaches in England, and the inns want all the accommodations they are intended for.

“ You may easily imagine, that the sight of a new Queen, from the frontiers of the kingdom to the capital, brought upon my passage great crowds of people from the adjacent towns and villages; yet I believe you may see more on a fair day from Charing-Cross to the Royal Exchange, than I have met upon the road from Altena to Copenhagen. The gentlemen and ladies who were sent to compliment me, and increase my retinue, made no addition to my entertainment; besides the reservedness and gravity peculiar to their nation, they thought it was a mark of respect and submission never to presume

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presume to answer me but by monosyllables.

“ What I have seen of Danish Holstein, and of the duchy of Sleswick, is well watered, and produces plenty of corn. The inhabitants of those countries differ little or nothing from other Germans. Some parts of Jutland consist of barren mountains; but the vallies are in general well inhabited and fruitful. The face of the country presents a number of large forests; but I did not see a river navigable for a barge of the same burden as those that come up the river Thames to London. Spring and autumn are seasons scarcely known here; to the sultry heat of August succeeds a severe winter, and the frost continues for eight months, with little alteration. It seems as if the soil was unfavourable to vegetable productions; for those that have been procured for my table, at a great expence, were unfavoury, and of
the

the worst kind. As game is here in plenty, and the coasts generally well supplied with fish, I could have lived very well upon these two articles, had they been better dressed; but their cookery, which is a mixture of Danish and German ingredients, cannot be agreeable to an English palate.

“ I shall not attempt to learn the language of the country, which is a harsh dialect of the Teutonic. The little French and High Dutch I know will be of great service to me at court, where they are generally spoken, with a bad accent and a vicious pronunciation. The peasants, as to property, are still in a state of vassalage; and the nobility, who are slaves at court, tyrannize over their inferiors and tenants in their domains. These poor husbandmen, with such discouragements to industry, are obliged to maintain the cavalry in victuals and lodging, likewise to furnish them

them with money. These disadvantages, added to their natural indolence, make this valuable class of people less useful and more needy than in free states, where they enjoy, in common with other subjects, that freedom which is a spur to industry. You must not expect any conveniency and accommodation in their inns; all those I found upon the road had been provided by the court.

“Copenhagen, though a small capital, makes no contemptible appearance at a distance. All the artillery of the castles and forts, with the warlike music of the guards, and divers companies of burghers, in rich uniforms, announced my entry into this royal residence. I was conducted, amidst the acclamations of the inhabitants, to the palace, where the King, the Queen-Dowager, and Prince Frederic, her son, with the nobility of both sexes, who had, on this
 C occasion,

occasion, displayed all their finery, received me with extraordinary honours, according to the etiquette. The ——'s youth, good-nature, and levity, require no great penetration to be discerned, in his taste, his amusements, and his favourites. He seems all submission to the ——, who has got over him such an ascendancy, as her arts and ambition seem likely to preserve. Her darling son, whom she wished not to be removed a step farther from the throne, is already proud and aspiring, like herself.

“ I have been more than once mortified with the superior knowledge and experience for which the —— takes care to praise herself, and offended at the want of respect and attention in the P——c. As such unmerited slights cannot be resented without an open rupture, I rather bear with them, than to disunite the Royal Family, and appear the

the cause of court-cabals, by shewing my displeasure. It seems the — teaches his subjects, by example, the doctrine of passive obedience. Few of the courtiers look like gentlemen, and their ladies appear in the circle inanimate, like the wax figures in Westminster-abbey.

“ I have been lately at Fredericksburg. It is a magnificent house, built in the modern taste, but ill-contrived, and situated in a moist unhealthy soil, in the midst of a lake. The paintings and furniture are truly royal.

“ To remind me that I am mortal, I have visited the cathedral-church of Roschild, where the Kings and Queens of Denmark were formerly buried. Several of their monuments still remain, which are, as well as this ancient structure, of a Gothic taste.

“ As you flatter me with the pleasure of seeing you soon in Copenhagen, I postpone mentioning many other parti-

culars till this agreeable interview, and remain, with British sincerity,

Sir, and dear brother,

Your most affectionate sister,

MATILDA-CAROLINE."

This letter proves the good sense of the young Queen, and that, notwithstanding the craftiness and dissimulation of the Dowager, she was aware of her designs and her manœuvres. Frederic V. one of the wisest monarchs of his time, either blinded by affection, or deluded by his second Queen's arts and hypocrisy, gave to this ambitious step-mother a power which the dictates of sound policy should never have vested in a woman of her aspiring views. She was to direct the councils of the young Sovereign, and to keep in her hands the reins of government, till he should have attained the years of maturity to reign by himself. The Dowager-Queen, Juliana-

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na-Maria, even before the King had closed his eye-lids, planned the bold and iniquitous scheme of snatching the sceptre from the feeble hands of Christian VII. whose youth and timidity forwarded the evil designs of this artful Princess. She had often, even during the lifetime of Frederic V. displayed, in his absence, her malice and hatred against the Prince-Royal, he being the sole obstacle to her son Frederic's mounting the throne, to which she was passionately fond to raise him. Whether through fear or policy, when Christian VII. attained the crown, at the age of seventeen, notwithstanding the disdain with which his mother-in-law treated him, he paid her all the deference which seemed due to her rank and authority in council. He never testified his firmness, or had the courage to defend his own opinion, upon any other occasion than in the choice of Matilda, whilst the Queen

Dowager neither approved of the alliance, nor the time fixed for the union. As, from the weak and delicate constitution of the young Monarch, he might probably have quitted this life without posterity, had this marriage been deferred; this gave rise to the secret motive of her opposition. Moreover, she saw, in the young Queen, a rival in the ascendancy she had usurped over the mind of the young King, and in the power she had resolved to maintain in the council. She could not conceal her resentment when Queen Matilda first arrived at Copenhagen, and appeared in the capital, with all the advantages of youth and beauty, amidst the unanimous acclamation of a people delighted with her graces and her affability.

Neither the prepossession this amiable Princess inspired in her favour, neither her attracting figure, neither the regard and attention she testified to the Queen-

Dowager,

Dowager, could soften this haughty and vindictive spirit. She never paid the young Queen any other visits than those prescribed by etiquette, treating always Queen Matilda with an insulting superiority, affecting to despise her youth and her inexperience, and endeavouring to mortify her by injurious reflections upon the English. Such ill-treatment and repeated affronts, to which the King appeared insensible, first gave the Queen a disadvantageous impression of the Monarch her husband, and an aversion to the imperious Dowager.

When the Duke of York paid a visit to the Queen, his sister, the court could not dispense with the honours due to a royal personage, next in rank to the first crowned heads in Europe: but he soon perceived that these exterior demonstrations were mere ceremonies; as the Queen-Dowager seemed, in his presence, confused and embarrassed; the King was

feldom suffered to converse in private with his illustrious guest, whose amusements he had not the liberty to vary; and Prince Frederic was shy of his cousin on all public occasions. The young Queen had but few opportunities of disclosing her heart to her beloved brother, and from her Majesty's unfavourable accounts, and his own observations, he judged that her critical situation required the utmost prudence and discretion, not to fall into the snares of a ruling Princess, whose inimical designs were too manifest, and who would not fail availing herself of the King's weakness and ductility to compass them.

The Duke, however, took his leave of the King and Queen Juliana, seemingly pleased with the reception he had met at a court influenced by female envy, distrust, and dissimulation.

The death of this amiable Prince, which happened soon afterwards, was felt

felt by the young Queen with all the anguish of unutterable grief.

Ever since the declaration of the Queen's pregnancy, Juliana declined to appear at court, and when public prayers were read for her Majesty's happy delivery in all the churches of the kingdom, they were omitted in the Queen-Dowager's chapel. The birth of a prince, which gave universal joy, was of all events the most dreaded by Queen Juliana and her son. The usual rejoicings on such an occasion throughout the kingdom were confined within the forts of the capital, where some pieces of cannon were fired, without illuminations and fountains of wine being ordered for the entertainment of the inhabitants. The young Queen and the nation guessed the causes of this disrespectful omission; but, as the King tamely bore with the insult, none durst animadvert publicly on the Dowager's conduct and influence.

fluence. She artfully persuaded the credulous King to abandon his wife and his dominions to the mercy of the dangerous cabal, which she had already formed, under pretence of his embellishing his understanding with useful knowledge and instruction, by travel and observation, in visiting the principal courts of Europe. She hoped that his absence would entirely extinguish the last sparks of conjugal affection; that no other heirs but the Prince Royal should be a bar to her son's succession; and that the young Queen, long neglected, would commit some imprudent action, of which the Dowager might wickedly avail herself to censure Matilda's conduct, and render her virtue suspected. The vivacity, cheerfulness, and easy carriage, of Matilda, amidst a phlegmatic and reserved nation, formed a happy presage to the success of her enemy's designs. Except Count Bernstorff, that great statesman, whom
Christian

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Christian VII. had continued in the first state department, and who had compelled the Queen-Dowager to dread his virtue, which she could not corrupt, there was scarce one among the Lords, who were to accompany the King, that was not a young voluptuary; each endeavouring to outvie the rest by distinguishing himself in the office of superintendant of the pastimes of a Prince, who was less formed to please the ladies, than ambitious to appear their favourite. The young Queen, forsaken by an inconsiderate Monarch, who never strove to merit her confidence and esteem, and had rendered himself unworthy of her love by his inglorious amours, a stranger in the capital of her dominions, she endeavoured to dissipate the irksomeness and constraint of a melancholy, and almost deserted court, by diversions and exercises, represented, by a jealous inspector, as incompatible with the dignity of a Queen,

and the modesty of a woman. Matilda, in her frequent excursions on horseback, and her hunting parties, dressed herself like an Amazon, which gave offence to some austere zealots among the clergy; and, as she conversed familiarly with those who accompanied her in those jaunts, the *pious and charitable* Juliana-Maria lamented, with her confidants, the indiscretion of this young princess, whom she blamed for debasing her rank and tarnishing her reputation. All the fashions, and all the customs, which this young Queen had innocently introduced at Copenhagen, were, by the malignant Dowager, represented as fantastical, indecent, and ridiculous. She even insinuated to the King, during his residence in England and France, that the Queen had connections that were too close with some of her favourites, and the Prince had the weakness to credit these calumnious imputations, so far

so far from punishing the inventress of them.

It cannot be doubted that his Majesty had been apprized of the Queen his sister's critical and unhappy situation, of the Dowager's malevolence, and the King's culpable neglect and forbearance. This was the true and just motive of the cold reception he met at St. James's, and of his Majesty's procrastination in receiving at his palace of Richmond the first visit of this royal guest; the late Princess Dowager of Wales was equally well informed and displeased on account of the illiberal and unmerited slights Queen Matilda had so often met with from Juliana and her son, and despised the King for his tame submission and pusillanimity. However, his Majesty, willing to shew to royalty the exterior marks of distinction which sovereigns mutually expect from each other, intimated to the Royal family, to his ministers,

ters, and the great officers of his household, that he should consider as a respectful attention paid to himself, the emulation of the nobility in procuring the King of Denmark whatever was conducive to his amusement and information in his kingdom. Indeed, the young Monarch met with the most distinguished honours from an hospitable and magnificent court, in a continual succession of the most brilliant feasts, and the most sumptuous entertainments. The King himself concluded all these festivities in a princely manner, by giving his Danish Majesty a grand ball and supper at the Queen's palace.

Good-nature, which is the characteristic of the English nation, made them give the most favourable construction to the motives of the King's travels, which were in fact the natural consequence of his giddiness and levity. Whatever he seemed desirous to see, and all the in-

quiries

quiries worthy of a monarch, who seeks for instruction and improvement in arts, civilization, and government, were suggested by Count Bernstorff, Secretary of State, the only man of merit and genius in his retinue. His own inclination led him to plays, operas, balls, and excursions of pleasure into the country, in which amusements a sovereign may indulge himself occasionally, when they are intended as a relaxation from the grand objects of useful study and information. He was gracious and accessible, but without discernment, and without dignity. The very citizens of both sexes, who resorted daily to his apartments to see him dine in public with his favourites, mistook him more than once for a young girl dressed in men's cloaths, whose conversation and deportment commanded neither respect nor attention. His amorous intrigues in London could neither flatter his vanity, nor evince his taste

taste and delicacy; as the stale favours he received were from women of quality who had long served as volunteers to the Cyprian goddess, or from kept mistresses still more contemptible.

His confidants were of the same stamp; heedless, vain, trifling, and debauched. Count Holke, who, like Narcissus, seemed his own admirer, was a foppish, shallow courtier, *sur le bon ton* at the court of Copenhagen, and highly distinguished by the favour of his master. Molke, his rival in the royal confidence, had less presumption, more dexterity and knowledge of the world, than the other, with an equal propensity to pleasure and gallantry.

Baron Schimmelmon affected the grave and important airs of a financier, agreeable to his office, and was the contriver of ways and means for the supplies of the King and his attendants, in this expensive, remote, and frivolous excursion,

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tion, without additional charges to the state. He was conceited, supercilious, and corrupt.

Baron Bulow, with the solemn stupidity of a German, and the bluntness of a soldier, sacrificed alternately to Venus and Bacchus in the nocturnal orgies of Covent-Garden, and amused his master with the recital of his gallant exploits.

Doctor Struensee was a man of knowledge and observation: he had the address requisite for his profession; and his conversation, which was polite, learned, and instructive, made all those who knew him desirous of his esteem and friendship.

Queen Matilda, having got intelligence of the King's conjugal transgressions, wrote to a Royal Princess the following jocular letter:

“I wish the King's travels had the same laudable objects as those of Cyrus, but I find that the chief visitors of his Majesty are musicians, fiddlers, and other persons.

persons designed for some employments still more inglorious: what a wretched levee! His evening amusements are still more disgraceful, since delicacy and sentiment cannot be supposed to dignify such transient gratifications. Had I not experienced already his fickleness and levity at home, I could not have heard without emotion and disquietude of his divers infidelities abroad. But as it was the monarch, not the man, I received injunction to marry, the consciousness of having strictly adhered to my duty to his Majesty, and the respect I owe to myself, form a secret satisfaction which neither malice nor envy can deprive me of.

“I am your affectionate, &c.”

The great partiality and manifest preference which the King gave to French connections, during his abode at the court of Versailles, were undoubtedly impolitical, and disclosed that his affinity with the Royal family of England did not coincide

coincide with his inclinations, and the system he was directed to pursue. The Queen, having been informed that his Majesty had given a regiment of Danish cavalry to the Duke of Duras's son, said "he was a very good Frenchman, but a very bad politician." This stroke of humour was communicated to him with many aggravating circumstances by the emissaries of the Dowager. Paris, the center of dissipation, frivolousness, and gaiety, afforded the King and his attendants a successive variety of pleasures answerable to their desires and expectations. Some ladies of fashion were proud of being singled out by the Monarch, whom they prefixed to the catalogue of their admirers. The Countess of Haute-
fort, one of the most celebrated beauties in France, even in her autumn, eclipsed all her rivals in the young Monarch's opinion, who begged to be admitted with the Graces in her train. This distinguished

tinguished homage flattered her vanity, and she granted to royalty what she had denied to the man. This was the case with most of the ladies who gratified the desires of a sovereign at their feet, which made the Queen say, that, "if he had travelled incog. he would have returned to his dominions with a blank list of *bonnes fortunes*."

Lewis XV. who was sunk into unmanly indolence, and gave himself up to the enjoyment of loose desire in the arms of his mistress, had forgot, in her company, all the burdens, duties, and fatigues of state, and left the kingdom to be plundered by a rapacious ministry. As the passions of age are incurable, the young Monarch found in Lewis's court, immersed in gallantry, a sanction for all sensual enjoyments. The two Kings often supped *en partie quarrée*, laying aside, in mutual freedom and convivial mirth, all stateliness and majesty. The
time

time fixed for Christian's departure made him lament the fate of royalty; and, in taking his leave of the French Monarch, he declared Versailles and Paris, under his Majesty's auspices, the favourite abode of Apollo, Venus, and Minerva.

Upon the King's return to his dominions, unjustly prejudiced against the Queen, instead of testifying his joy and fondness at their first meeting, he affected to mortify her by his coolness and indifference. The Dowager, with all the exterior marks of exultation, congratulated his Majesty, in the name of all his loyal subjects; insinuating wickedly, that several of his most faithful nobles had retired to their estates during his absence, to avoid the insults of some new men admitted to the young Queen's favour. All these false and malicious insinuations alienated the King's affections still more from his amiable consort, who saw herself surrounded with spies,
devoted

devoted to the sinister designs of an intriguing and perfidious woman. As her desire was to govern alone the King's councils, she saw, with a jealous eye, the high favour in which Count Holke was held, and the confidence with which the King honoured the companions of his travels. By means of secret manœuvres, Counts Holke, Molke, Thott, and Reventlau, and Barons De Schimmelmon, and De Bulow, with Monsieur De Rosencratz, were disgraced, and banished to their estates, after being obliged to quit their employs unpensioned, to the great astonishment of the whole nation, without the motives of such an unexpected change being made public. At this juncture General Philosophow, the Russian Minister, who had attended the King abroad, received some slight from Queen Juliana and Prince Frederic, which he thought derogatory to his character; and, as his expostulations with the
King

King proved fruitless, he quitted the Court without taking leave. The General had perceived the new influence of the French councils, which did not square with the interests of his court. In effect, the Queen-Dowager, who could not compass her pernicious designs, without detaching the King from his British alliance, was entirely devoted to France; and the Minister of that Court was received by her with the most flattering distinctions.

Queen Matilda, who, for some political reasons, was not willing to acquaint the Royal Family in England with the daily slights and mortifications she met with from the King and his stepmother, gave vent to her grief and vexation in a letter which she wrote to the Princess Mary of Hesse-Cassel. Her consanguinity with the King of Denmark, and the marriage of her sons with his Majesty's sisters, suggested

gested to her the propriety of entreating her Royal Highness's application in behalf of an injured Queen, her niece. The following is an exact copy of this sensible and moving letter:

"Copenhagen, March 22, 1769.

"MADAM, AND GOOD AUNT,

"YOU are not unacquainted with the arts, devices, and aspiring views, of the Queen-Dowager, who seems bent on undermining the royal authority, the exercise of which she assumes solely to herself; and, after having made the King contemptible to his subjects, in availing herself of his weakness to give a sanction to the most flagrant acts of violence, injustice, and oppression, that bad, wicked woman has forfeited all claims to the sentiments of forgiveness and moderation. I have too long manifested, in opposition to censure, insolence, and obloquy,

loquy, by her last most injurious and false aspersions on my reputation and the dignity of a reigning Queen. I am amazed at the King's torpor and insensibility. If any person of my attendance shews a laudable zeal for my service, or a respectful attachment to my person, it is reputed a crime, and punished with royal displeasure and dismissal. Some reasons, dictated by prudence, have prevented me from troubling the King, my brother, on this disagreeable subject, as he might, perhaps, think it highly improper to interfere in grievances which he has no right to redress. I have applied to your known benevolence to do me the kind office of advising me, that I may bring the King to a sense of his wrongs and his injustice. Would you take upon yourself, as far as it is consistent with your discretion, to assist me in such a perplexing situation, I

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could

could never sufficiently acknowledge your friendly interposition to restore the peace of mind of

Your affectionate

CAROLINE."

The Princess Mary begged the Queen her niece would excuse her from taking any part in these royal feuds, which, instead of producing the desired effects, might, perhaps, stimulate her rival's vengeance to offer her Majesty some new affronts and indignities. She professed, at the same time, a great concern for her troubles and anxiety, hoping her Majesty's good sense and conduct would confound the vile imputations of Juliana, and make the King sensible of his errors.

It was about this time that Count Bernstoff, Secretary of State, received orders to resign his employments. This
great

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great statesman was revered by the late King, and the whole nation, for his integrity, his penetration, his sagacity, and experience, in the first departments of public administration. He had, till then, triumphed over the little artifices and stratagems of the Queen-Dowager; but he thought, as things were, a private station was the post of honour. He obtained permission to retire to Hamburgh, where he died, crowned with glory and old age. This is the translation of a letter which he wrote in German to a friend of his, who had met with the same ingratitude and injustice from a deluded King:

“ MY DEAR BARON,

“ I HAVE, for a long time, foreseen the sudden changes which have now taken place. This is only the prelude to a revolution more fatal, which will

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astonish

astonish all Europe. The weakness and pusillanimity of the King, the Queen's just indignation and resentment, and the unlimited ambition of the artful Dowager, will precipitate the reigning family, and perhaps their posterity, into the most dreadful calamities. I am sorry for the misguided Monarch, I pity his consort, and detest the maxims of Juliana, the Machiavelist. I congratulate you, as well as myself, upon our living in retirement, safe from the terrible storm that is gathering. Thank God, I am not in the secret; but I know that the Dowager is capable of sacrificing every thing to the advancement of her dear Frederic. She is a wicked woman, who caresses only to betray, and offers her good offices only to attain her own ends. She has already gained the clergy by her hypocrisy; I fear she will seduce the military, by inspiring them with contempt

tempt for their Sovereign. Adieu, my friend. Live happy in tranquility, like me. I am, most sincerely,

Your servant and faithful friend,

Hamburg,
May 27, 1770.

BERNSTOFF."

The revolution of the 17th of January, 1772, verified the prediction of this wise politician.

In despite of all her cabals, Dr. Struensee was the only person who maintained his interest at court. He was equally esteemed by the King and the Queen, and wished a good understanding might be restored between them. He succeeded so far as to awake the King's jealousy on the continual encroachments made by Juliana on his prerogative; and had the courage to vindicate the Queen from all unfavourable impressions he had received against her Majesty from the Dowager. His skill in medicine and chemistry had indu-

ced the King, when he passed thro' Altena, where he exercised his profession with success and repute, to take him in his train. He was afterwards appointed Physician to the King, and recommended himself to the Queen's attention by his zeal and fidelity, of which he had given indubitable proofs, without her Majesty's previous knowledge or injunction. He was of a creditable family, and his father, who had given him a liberal education, was the first ecclesiastic in the duchy of Holstein, where he is still universally esteemed.

The young Queen endeavoured, during this interval of Christian's assuming the reins of government, to prevent the baneful effects of Juliana's designs, by forming a new court of creatures, mostly strangers, without fortune, credit, or alliances in the state, intriguing without being politicians, perhaps too assuming in prosperity, and relying too much on a
transient

transient power, unsupported by family-connections, and envied by the late discarded favourites, as well as by those who pleaded a noble Danish extraction, for the preference they claimed against these new men, whose confined geniuses and talents, inadequate to public administration, gave too much room for their adversaries complaints and animadversions.

Juliana's court became the resort of discontented nobles, ecclesiastics, and officers, who, adopting implicitly her vindictive projects, prejudiced the nation against the measures of what they called a German junto, composed of upstarts, suddenly emerged from obscurity, who sacrificed the national honour and interest to the desires of aggrandizing themselves by plundering the state, and accumulating to their indigent families a rapid fortune, by the most scandalous exactions. It was a misfortune for Ma-

tilda, that she wanted discernment in the choice of her adherents. To this error of judgment may be ascribed all her calamities.

It was undoubtedly an impolitic step in the King to create Doctor Struensee a Count of Denmark, the highest title of nobility in his kingdom; and, after having made him their equal, to raise him above competition, as his Prime Minister, with a power never delegated before to a Dane. He was revered and esteemed as a physician and a scholar; but when he became the representative of the King of a faction, who was at most the Sovereign of some court-sycophants, all Struensee's abilities were exerted to maintain his important post, against all the batteries of female revenge and perfidy, without attempting to silence his enemies by those masterly strokes which characterize a statesman, and confound all the little devices of the ambitious,

ambitious, forced to admire what it is not their interest to satirize and ridicule.

One of the capital faults of Struensee was to recommend to their Majesties favour another stranger, whom he had associated to him as a joint viceroy. This was Count Brandt, a shallow courtier, vain, dissolute, and thoughtless, void of all principles of religion and morality. The clergy, always implacable in their vengeance against whomsoever dares attempt to make their character despicable, and diminish their influence, never forgave Brandt for having said, that "Luther was a lewd ambitious monk, whose sectators, with more hypocrisy than the disciples of Loyola, wanted their address and their sagacity to rule sovereigns and nations." In consequence of this aspersions, they declared him an atheist, unworthy the confidence of his Royal Master, and a fit colleague for Struensee, who, with more prudence and

circumspection, was equally debauched and impious.

Whilst these changes were taking place, which the Dowager attributed to the caprices and ambition of the young Queen, and even to more disgraceful motives, the King was engaged in the pursuit of the most useful plans for the prosperity of his people, and the internal police of the kingdom. He erected a royal hospital, which served as an asylum to veteran and invalid soldiers; he encouraged agriculture, commerce, and manufactures; and, in order to extend the land-mark of knowledge amongst his subjects, his Majesty ordered, that, for the future, literary productions should be exempted from censure.

It was in these circumstances that the Queen was happily delivered of the Princess - Royal Louisa Augusta, the birth of whom was traduced, with infernal malice, as a spurious offspring.

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The young Monarch, who had shewn himself active and vigilant in reforming the abuses of administration, fell suddenly into a state of languor and a kind of imbecillity, the true cause of which could not at first be traced.

On this occasion scandalous publications were ushered, the authors of which were easily guessed. It was suggested, that the system of the Count-Doctor was to abase the nobility, and to introduce into the first employment of the state low people like himself; that he owed his astonishing elevation to the scandalous predilection of the Queen, who in her heart detested the Danes, dishonoured by her licentious conduct the state and the King, and seemed determined to govern without controul, with her unworthy favourites. The inert stupidity of the King was alleged as a confirmation of the most unjust and atrocious suspicions against Struensee, who was

accused of the horrid crime of having administered to the young Monarch poison, which had enervated his vigour, and disordered his mind. To this cause were ascribed those irregularities and scandalous debaucheries, which exposed him to the contempt of his subjects, and rendered him passive with respect to the pretended excesses of the Queen, and the crimes of her creatures.

These insinuations, artfully propagated in the capital, made the desired impression upon the military and the burghers. The Dowager gained over to her party the Counts Thott and Osten, Colonels Heller, Scheffer, and all the Commissaries, who were afterwards appointed to draw accusations against the Queen and other prisoners.

Count Rantzaw, who thought himself slighted by the Queen, and neglected by the new ministry, had endeavoured to ingratiate himself into the favour of the
army

army and people, flattering himself, by this affable deportment, diametrically opposite to his natural pride and haughtiness, to supply the talents he wanted for the part of head of a party he had for some time projected to act. The Queen-Dowager had founded his intentions with all the address and insinuation she was capable of, in order to discover whether he would be instrumental in the great revolution she had in meditation; or to find out if he had already entered into separate engagements relative to the same object: but, though he had openly declared himself against the first minister and his partizans, he was impenetrable to her prying curiosity, and intimated, he should never risk the event of a conspiracy that he was not allowed to conduct. Moreover, he pretended to act from principles very different from those of the Queen-Dowager; he tried to persuade those who wished for a reformation

sion in the state, that his plan was to procure his countrymen liberty, and to restore the ancient laws in limiting the prerogative of the sovereign. He communicated his scheme to the Swedish minister, who informed his court of it; but, whether the alliance between the two courts, cemented by the marriage of the King of Sweden with the Princess-Royal of Denmark, prevented this power from entering into engagements pernicious to the reigning family; or that Sweden did not think it her interest to contribute to free the Danes from their servitude, she resolved to remain a mere spectator of the troubles of Denmark: besides, the late surprizing revolution, which the young northern despot had then in view, did not permit him to take a part in foreign affairs. Count Rantzaw had even suggested the idea of a matrimonial-alliance between the King of Denmark and the Princess of Sweden,

den, after his being divorced from Matilda.

The Queen-Dowager, nevertheless, treated Count Rantzaw with particular distinction, fearful of disobliging a man whose credit and reputation might hurt or serve either party. The French and Prussian ministers were certainly in the secret; the first as natural enemies of an administration which firmly adhered to the English interest, and the last envious of British commerce and influence; but their courts had terms to keep with England which obliged them to act with secrecy and circumspection.

Juliana's furious resentment and blasted ambition made the unprejudiced admit the probability of being herself guilty of the enormous crimes of which she had the wickedness to accuse Struensee. Her diabolical project had been for a long time to make the King appear contemptible, and the Queen odious, to their subjects;

subjects; to tarnish the reputation of this amiable and innocent Princess, by the blackest calumnies; the King, her son-in-law, seem doomed to perish by a slow poison; the annihilation of the Royal family had been preconcerted, after having declared the young Prince hereditary and the Princess his sister illegitimate; and, in fine, her own son was to be placed upon the throne, stained with the bloody dye of the foulest crimes.

It is surprising that the English ministers, who, like all ambassadors, are privileged spies, had not foreseen and given advice to their court of the dangerous intrigues of Queen Juliana.

Struensee was certainly a better courtier than a statesman. His too great security, and his want of foresight, were his destruction. Self-preservation and the honour of his sovereign had justified the measures he might have taken to have Juliana conveyed to some remote fortress.

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fortress in Norway, before she had perpetrated the last nefarious crimes of her wickedness and her ambition. It is not to be doubted that the young Queen entertained a particular esteem for him, and a high opinion of his medical skill. She often conversed with him, laying aside reserve and constraint; and it was very easy for an artful and intriguing woman to take advantage of these familiar, though innocent conversations, to ruin the charming, unfortunate Princess.

Though Struensee's administration has been traduced to the public, and represented in the blackest colours, he had issued ordinances which should be perpetuated for the security of the citizens, and the benefit of future generations. Before his time the inhabitants of Copenhagen were subject to the most rigid inspection of the police, who forcibly entered their houses at all hours of the
night

night or day; he obtained a royal edict, which ordered, that, for the future, no persons should be disturbed in their houses, excepting criminals.

Prejudice had stamped such a badge of infamy upon widows, and girls who had strayed from the rigid paths of virtue, and children born out of the pale of matrimony, that they often destroyed the fruit of their lawless love. To prevent these crimes, and remedy these abuses, Count Struensee published an edict which inflicted severe penalties on any one who reproached these objects of compassion and humanity, and declared bastards capable of succeeding to the fortune of their fathers, in default of legitimate heirs.

These salutary edicts, and these wise regulations, have been abolished since the late revolution. It has even been imputed to the unfortunate Struensee as a crime, to publish his edicts in German, which

which has ever been the language of the court and the cabinet.

One should suppose the Queen was not without fears and suspicions, from the impressions the ignorant and credulous part of the public had received, by the most audacious accusations, levelled at her innocence, and forged by an implacable fury, with all the poisonous suggestions of imposture and calumny; it was in consequence of these apprehensions, that her Majesty desired Count Struensee to present to the King a spirited memorial, setting forth the hellish plots and devices of Juliana, tending to stamp her character with eternal disgrace and infamy: "Had I been raised," said Matilda, "from obscurity to a throne, the ambitious and wicked Juliana might have expected a pusillanimous submission to her will and pleasure, and your Majesty might have imagined that a crown of golden
 " thorns

“ thorns should make me bear it with
“ patience and resignation; but, de-
“ scended as I am from an illustrious
“ race of sovereigns, and sister to a
“ monarch who yields to none in the
“ universe for power and extent of do-
“ minion, can I put up with more in-
“ sults, outrages, and indignity, than
“ any person in a private station ever met
“ with from the most inveterate and the
“ most ungenerous enemy? Had not
“ my conduct bidden defiance to blame
“ and slander, I might account for so
“ many repeated injuries; but the con-
“ sciousness of my virtue, and the re-
“ gard I owe to royalty, demand justice
“ from a King who cannot deny it to
“ his wife, since he is bound to see the
“ meanest of his subjects righted. I
“ am determined to bring to detection
“ and condign punishment my accusers,
“ however exalted may be their rank,
“ and great their power. They have
“ aimed

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“ aimed at my reputation ; I should not
“ be surprized if their next daring at-
“ tempt was to deprive me of regalities,
“ liberty, and life. If you are uncon-
“ cerned for me and your offspring,
“ perhaps self-preservation will awaken
“ you to snatch in time the reins from
“ the hands of a perfidious and base
“ woman, ere she hurries us both into
“ destruction. Mind this information
“ from the injured Matilda.”

Her complaints and advice were dis-
regarded by the misguided, irresolute
Monarch.

The Dowager, impatient to accom-
plish her iniquitous schemes, would have
anticipated by six months the revolution
of the 17th of January, 1772, had the
conspirators all agreed in the means of
execution.

The disbanding of the regiment of
guards, which measure the King, thro' a
principle

principle of œconomy, was persuaded to adopt some weeks before, whilst it exposed the weakness and timidity of the monarch, tended to make Struensee still more odious to the army: the Dowager artfully availed herself of this event to vilify his administration, and represent him as the enemy of those who were intrusted with guarding his Majesty's person. But the fact really is, that, in order to diminish the expences of the state, Struensee proposed to substitute, in the place of the guards, such regiments as were in garrison at Copenhagen.

Though the young Queen was not ignorant of the ill-will which the Dowager bore her, she was not sufficiently upon her guard against her stratagems and artifices. Struensee had neglected to watch the perfidious conduct of Juliana and her emissaries.

Count de Brandt, dissipated as he was, seemed apprehensive of some sudden reverse

verse of fortune, and offered to Count Struensee to arrest the Queen-Dowager in her own palace, and to conduct her to a place of safety, provided he obtained the King's sanction, which he durst not refuse. This bold act would have undoubtedly intimidated their enemies, dispersed the conspirators, and cleared them from all imputation of violence and injustice. But Struensee and his friend seemed doomed to be sacrificed to the unrelenting vengeance of the Queen-Dowager; suddenly elevated to the pinnacle of greatness, to be ignominiously dragged to a dungeon loaded with chains, and to expire upon a scaffold.

The fatal day was, at length, fixed upon, which was to abolish the King's authority, for ever dishonour a young Princess, the sister and wife of Kings, infamously degrade her posterity, and make the credulous and stupid Danes view with detestation the supposed accomplices of her crimes and errors.

Count

Count Rantzaw, after having fruitlessly attempted to be the chief of his party, yielded to the importunate solicitations of the Queen-Dowager, and took upon him, at her request, to arrest the Queen, and conduct her to the castle of Cronenburgh.

The conspiracy of the 17th was conducted with impenetrable secrecy. A masked ball was the prelude to this catastrophe. Till the very moment that the Queen, Count Struensee, the counsellor his brother, Gen. Gahlen and his lady, who played at cards that evening with the King, Lieut.-Gen. Hesselberg, Gen. Gude, Baron de Bulow, the Secretary of State Zoega, Mr. Panin, and other inferior officers of divers civil departments, were arrested, no one had the least suspicion of so strange an event. Prince Frederic, brother to the King, had retired from the ball about eleven o'clock, in order to concert with his mother the necessary measures to insure the success of

of this extraordinary attempt. When the young Queen and her partizans were seized, the King was compelled to sign the order for their imprisonment: thus the wretched monarch became the engine of malevolence and treason against himself and his forsaken consort; in case he had refused, he had been dethroned, and even his life would have been in danger. In order to excite the populace against this illustrious and ill-fated princess, the Queen Dowager had hired some wretches to cry out, Justice against Matilda and her lover Struensee! *Vivat Regina Juliana!* &c. In their first emotions the blind multitude went to the greatest excesses, and broke out in invectives against the unfortunate Matilda, loudly accused her of adultery, and enormous crimes against the state and the King. Count Rantzaw, even in using violence towards the Queen, pretended to make a merit of withdrawing her from

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the rage of the people. This young victim of premeditated malice and villainy, displayed an admirable fortitude in this terrible disaster. The Senate, corrupted by the crafty Dowager, without any form of trial, declared her guilty of adultery, and of having been privy to the poison administered to the King her husband; and would have probably passed upon her Majesty a most iniquitous sentence, if Mr. Keith, the English minister, had not solemnly protested against all acts of violence, with which the person of the Queen seemed to be threatened. He bravely vindicated oppressed innocence in a manner worthy of his character, refuted with much energy her accusers, and concluded with denouncing the vengeance of his nation, and the bombardment of Copenhagen, if justice was not done to the sister of his sovereign. These menaces suspended the immediate effect of a most precipitate and unparalleled

leled judgment. The Queen had not even been permitted to have the necessary cloaths to appear with decency, and to prepare herself against the severity of the weather in this frozen region; her Majesty was denied an interview with the dastardly King her worthless husband, and conveyed to the castle of Cronenburgh, not like a state-prisoner, but with all the marks of contempt and infamy shewn to the most flagitious offenders. There, was immured in the gloomy mansions of guilt and horror a Queen, whose personal charms and mental accomplishments would have melted into compassion the heart of a ruffian. In this inhospitable fortress she was scarcely allowed what is requisite to support nature, and not indulged with more conveniences in her apartments, than those granted to criminals of the lowest station. She was treated, during her captivity, with the greatest indignity by

her unfeeling keepers and an insolent soldiery ; yet, after the rays of reason had dispelled the prejudices of the infatuated multitude, the fury of the people was converted into pity for a Princess, whose unhappy fate was, at length, attributed to the cruel politics of a wicked woman. Her son Frederic was appointed chief of the council. The King, at the discretion of his step-mother, no longer exercised any act of sovereignty ; the orders which he signed were dictated by Juliana's new council : he was not allowed any correspondence with his unfortunate wife, and he subscribed to the humiliating condition of being, with his Queen, tried by his subjects.

The Struensees and Count de Brandt, exposed to the derision and the outrages of the vilest of mobs, were conducted in unmanly triumph to the tribunal of their merciless judges. Tired with fruitless interrogations, they threatened them
with

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with the terrors of the torture, whose excruciating torments might have extorted from the Struensees a confession of crimes that they had never committed.

A villain named Groninlet, who, at the instigation of the Queen-Dowager, had insinuated himself into the good graces of Count Struensee, and betrayed his confidence, was arrested and put in chains, in order to impose upon the public. He produced some fictitious letters, which indicated a criminal commerce between the Count and the young Queen; and, having the audaciousness to declare he had been an ocular witness of their indecent familiarities, which could not admit the least degree of probability, he was immediately set at liberty, and received a considerable sum as the price of his imposture and treachery.

The Queen Dowager, in order to inspire a favourable opinion of her clemency, and of the equity of the commissioners whom she had appointed for the trial of the pretended criminals, set many persons at liberty who had been suspected of an attachment to the new minister.

She ordered a letter, which she had dictated to the King, to be published and circulated in the capital, and throughout the kingdom. This letter was conceived in such terms as to insinuate he was persuaded of the infidelity of the Queen, and the crimes imputed to Struensee. As she had the clergy at her devotion, she commanded those who were the most celebrated for their eloquence in the pulpit to fulminate against the licentiousness and debauchery of Queen Matilda's court, treating as impious blasphemers the disgraced ministers,

ters, and, at the same time, returning thanks to the Almighty for having delivered them, under the happy auspices of Queen Juliana, from the oppression of those enemies to religion and the state. She had the wanton barbarity to insult the misfortunes of the Queen, whilst immured, by appointing two ecclesiastics to preach alternately before her, exhorting her to consecrate the rest of her days to expiate her supposed crimes and errors.

After the sensible part of the nation had discovered her sinister views and her criminal projects, she affected great moderation and indifference to obtain the government of affairs. This discovery might have prevented her attempting to shorten the days of the Royal Family; and the foreign Gazettes, which accused her of this design, by pointing out her evil intentions, may, perhaps, have defeated them.

In fine, she carried hypocrisy and dissimulation so far as to declare publicly, that she wished the tribunal instituted to prosecute the Queen would declare her innocent; and, in order to impose upon the public, she advised the King to engage the celebrated advocate Uldahl in this important cause, and to absolve him of his oath, that he might plead in her favour with all the eloquence of which he was master. But the world would not be duped by this artifice: whoever was acquainted with the principles and views of the King's advocate, knew that he was the soul of the Queen-Dowager's party. If his eloquence and the force of his specious reasonings could not save her, the whole nation would think her guilty; such was the soliloquy of this shrew.

Yet all the florid declamation of Mr. Uldahl, and all his rhetoric, could not even fix the suspicion of the crimes invented

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vented to cover with infamy the unhappy Queen. All the accusations against her Majesty were destitute even of conjectures amounting to probability; there was no circumstance from which her infidelity to the King could be surmised. Thus the nefarious plan of having the forlorn Matilda degraded and punished with death, and her children declared illegitimate, proving abortive; the merciless Dowager, dreading, at the same time, the just resentment of the King of Great-Britain, and of a generous nation, ever ready to succour the oppressed innocence of a Princess born and educated in her bosom, was induced to commute her intended sentence to perpetual imprisonment to the extremities of the frozen deserts of Jutland.

There was still virtue enough in England to make her repent of her crimes and her cruelties, with respect to one of the most amiable and accomplished

princesses in Europe, condemned at the age of twenty-one, by a corrupt and detestable faction, to languish in a dungeon.

After Queen Matilda's innocence had triumphed over all the atrocious suggestions devised by wickedness, malice, and calumny, the Queen-Dowager became the object of universal horror, as a monster of cruelty and hypocrisy; she will appear execrable in the eyes of impartial posterity, and the regency odious to all who are susceptible of justice and humanity.

Baron Diede, minister from a King a prisoner in his own capital, behaved, during these iniquitous transactions, as became a man of his character and reputation. He possesses all the qualities of a great minister, the sentiments of a man of the strictest honour, and the virtues of a good citizen. He had no part in this strange revolution; superior to all
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the cabals and intrigues of a profligate court, he acted, in his critical situation, with such prudence and moderation, as made him respected even by a nation at enmity with his. If England thought proper to suspend the effects of her vengeance, perhaps the dispositions of the powers who espoused the Dowager's party prevented an open rupture with Denmark at this juncture.

Queen Matilda, in the anguish of her heart, wrote the following letter, which, though intercepted by an officer of the guards, came to public knowledge.

*To Sir ROBERT KEITH, Envoy from
Great-Britain.*

“FROM the first day of my iniquitous arrest and severe captivity, I foresaw that the rage of my enemies would insist upon the loss of my liberty and life. I am perfectly resigned to my fate either way; but the thought of my
E 6 reputation

reputation being tarnished, and my dear children abandoned to the mercy of a people unjustly prejudiced against the legitimacy of their birth, overwhelms me with the most pungent grief. Has the King, my brother, then, abandoned me? Great God! will no one, then, avenge my innocence and my memory? I doubt whether my merciless Arguses will suffer this letter to reach you: in case you receive it, continue to do me all the good offices in your power. I shall never forget the zeal which you have testified in the cause of innocence; and if ever heaven should restore me to the rank and pre-eminence from which I have been so unjustly degraded, you shall have more convincing proofs of my gratitude. Oh! were I in England, my dear country, where the meanest criminal has the privilege of being tried by his peers! Am I forgot by the whole universe? I am greatly fallen away, and my

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my health is much impaired, since I have been immured within these walls. There is not a single person about me whom I do not suspect, and I despair of ever recovering my liberty. For the love of God, endeavour to visit me. The time approaches when my trial will take place, but I am apprehensive my sentence is already determined. I pray God he will take you under his holy protection.

Cronenburgh,

April 11, 1772.

MATILDA."

The Queen wrote, about the same time, another letter to the King, of which the following is an exact copy:

"SIRE,
"IF justice and humanity dwell yet in your royal breast, I have an undoubted right, as your most injured wife, to claim your Majesty's protection from
this

this vale of misery. Your honour is impeached as well as my virtue; if the sense of both can inspire you with tender feelings for my inexpressible woes, and the indignities offered to supreme authority, by the most flagitious combination of all the horrid engines the blackest calumnies could play, to blast my innocence and reputation, I appeal to your Majesty's own conviction of my spotless and inviolable fidelity. I do not intreat mercy, but I demand justice. Were your heart callous to my inexpressible sufferings, sure what you owe to yourself, and the dear pledges of conjugal affection, should call for the utmost exertion of your power to maintain your prerogative, that has been so daringly encroached upon, and to avenge the outrages I have been forced to submit to, by an unparalleled confederacy of traitors determined to snatch the sceptre from your hands, and to sacrifice

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sacrifice your guiltless consort and your own progeny to their wicked ambition. I wish for a fair trial, and that I may face and confound my accusers. To the supreme Judge who knows all hearts, and all motives, I submit the justice of my cause. MATILDA."

The King was not permitted to make an answer.

As to the unfortunate Counts Struensee and Brandt, they were doomed to expiate, by a shocking and violent death, the crimes imputed to them by the Queen-Dowager.

The grand commission passed sentence on those two noblemen on the 25th of April; their supposed crimes being first publicly declared in court to the following effect:

Count Struensee was pronounced guilty of having embezzled from the King's coffers near six lors of gold, or

125,000

125,000 pounds sterling; of having expedited many orders from the cabinet without the King's knowledge; of an unbecoming familiarity with the Queen; of having secreted several letters that should have been laid before the King; with having counselled the King to disband his guards; and of forging and falsifying a draught; and of suspicious arrangements in the city.

Count Brandt was declared guilty of having been privy to Struensee's free intercourse with the Queen, and of all his other supposed crimes, without divulging them; of having laid violent hands on the King's person; and also of evil designs immediately agitated against his Majesty.

Then the sentence was pronounced as follows:

John Frederic Struensee has (agreeable to the Danish statute-law, book vi. chap. 4. art. 1.) for his crimes, forfeited his honour,

honour, estate, and life. His coat of arms shall be broken by the common hangman, then his right hand shall be cut off, and afterwards his head; his body to be then quartered and put on a wheel; his head and hand to be placed on a pole, and fixed over the gates.

A like sentence was passed on Count Enevoldt Brandt.

In consequence of this rigid decree, they were executed on the 28th of the same month, at eight in the morning, before the east gate of the city of Copenhagen, in the centre of a field, upon a scaffold erected for that purpose. Count Brandt suffered first, and behaved with great heroism, and almost unparalleled coolness, whilst his hand was cut off; he went through the remainder of his sentence with amazing intrepidity, made a speech to the by-standers, protesting his innocence, and declaring his accusers suborned and perjured. His head was
then

then exposed various times to the view of a multitude of spectators. He was attended by one Heek, a Lutheran minister, but gave no signs of fear or contrition.

Count Struensee suffered with great reluctance: he remonstrated a long time to the clergyman who attended him, upon the hardness of his fate, and seemed to the last moment in hopes of a reprieve, protesting his innocence; but Dr. Muntet pointing out to him, with much energy, his groundless hope, he then prayed very fervently, but could not meet his fate with the fortitude of his fellow-sufferer. After his hand was cut off, he started up, and was compelled by force to resume his seat. They were both gayly dressed, Brandt in green and gold, and Struensee in blue and silver. The report of Brandt's having desired the clergyman who administered the sacrament to him, to infuse poison in the cup, that he

he might avoid an ignominious and shocking death, is destitute of all foundation.

The remonstrances of Sir Robert Keith had, at last, the desired effect in favour of the Queen: she was allowed to take the air upon the ramparts of the castle of Cronenburgh, to receive such company as she pleased, and the visit of the English minister at all times. When her Majesty was informed of the circumstances of the two noble criminals tragical death, she said to Miss Mostyn, her maid of honour, "Unhappy men! they have paid dear for their attachment to the King, and their zeal for my service."

To sum up all the evidence against the Queen, all her Majesty's supposed crimes against the state and the King, notwithstanding the witnesses had been suborned, were destitute of judicial proofs, to degrade her from her titles and

and the prerogatives of her rank. In fine, her trial was a tiffue of contradictions: she was declared at once innocent and guilty. The King, who was chiefly interested in this iniquitous prosecution, so far from accusing her of infidelity and other crimes still more atrocious, declared more than once, that she was worthy of a husband more disposed than himself to do justice to her charms and her virtues. The generous avowal of his excesses and irregularities justifies the indifference and disgust which she had a long time testified towards him. If she could during her confinement have obtained an interview with him, it is not to be doubted that her Majesty would have compelled him to have made her due reparation for the injuries she had received; but the Dowager constantly prevented all correspondence between them, being certain that the Queen would have soon recovered her liberty, and made her enemies.

enemies repent of their injustice, had she been confronted with the King.

The English minister, whom the King his master had created Knight of the Bath, as an honourable recompence for his zeal, and as a mark of approbation for his conduct, had, by the advice of Juliana, been excluded the King's presence; but she had not sufficient influence to prevent the King's ordering a battalion to attend him for the security of his person, and as a guard to his house. Sir Robert Keith received his letters of recall; and the remonstrances of England, which became serious, as appeared by a naval armament, constrained the regency of Denmark to consent to deliver up the young Queen to this minister, who was appointed to accompany her into the electorate of Hanover, as the castle of Zell had been allotted her, by her royal brother, for her residence.

Sir

Sir Robert Keith having obtained the requested stipulations, and a pension of five thousand pounds a-year, towards the support of her Majesty's household and dignity, all thoughts of hostility between the two kingdoms subsided.

The Queen, having so fatally experienced the vicissitude of human grandeur, was not so deeply affected with her own disasters, as to overlook the sufferings and miseries of some state-prisoners, doomed to perpetual exile in the castle of Cronenburgh. Her Majesty's liberal beneficence was never more conspicuous than in this period of grief and distress. She sent daily from her table two dishes to these forsaken objects of compassion, and out of a scanty allowance she saved weekly a small sum to be distributed amongst them. The Governor having requested her Majesty to withdraw her bounty from an officer who
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had been closely confined for some years past in a remote turret, debarred from all human intercourse, on suspicion of a treasonable correspondence with the agent of a northern power, who had enlisted, with the assistance of the prisoner, several Danish subjects for his master's service; the Queen made no other answer but this verse of Voltaire:

*Il suffit qu'il soit homme, et qu'il soit mal-
heureux.*

Ever since she had received the joyful tidings of her approaching delivery, she walked most part of the day on the ramparts of the castle, in order to descry the British pendant. She was at dinner when the reciprocal salute of the English frigate and the castle guns informed her Majesty of Captain M'Bride's arrival. This polite and gallant officer met on shore Sir Robert Keith, who, after a mutual exchange of compliments, introduced the captain to her Majesty,
by

by whom he was most graciously received, as the man destined to convey her safe to her royal brother's electoral dominions, far from the reach of the Dowager's poisonous shafts, and that cursed land, which had been the dismal scene of her unparalleled misfortunes and humiliation. When the Captain had notified his commission, and said he should wait for her Majesty's time and pleasure, she exclaimed, in the anguish of her heart, "Ah! my dear children!" and immediately retired. It was not for an insensible monarch, nor for a throne, on which Matilda seemed to have been seated, merely to be the butt of envy, malice, and perfidy, that her Majesty grieved; the excruciating idea of being parted from her dear children, and the uncertainty of their fate, summoned all the feelings of a tender mother. She begged to see them before they were torn for ever from her bosom. All her Majesty's entreaties

entreaties proved ineffectual; Juliana envied her the comfort of the most wretched, that of a parent sympathising in mutual fondness and sorrow with children snatched from her last embraces by unnatural authority.

The Governor of Cronenburgh, and some nobles designed by the Dowager to observe the Queen after her Majesty's enlargement till her departure, under a fallacious shew of respect to the same royal personage, so lately disgraced and injured, endeavoured, by vain professions of regard and esteem for Sir Robert Keith and Capt. M'Bride, to inspire these gentlemen with a favourable opinion of the motives of their insidious visits; but they made them sensible, without deviating from the rules of decorum and civility, that they were no dupes to these compliments and protestations, keeping them at a proper distance by a contemptuous reservedness, and an apparent

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doubt

doubt of their veracity. When they were admitted to the Queen's presence, and wished her a happy voyage in the name of his Majesty, she answered, "The time will come when the King will know that he has been betrayed and deceived; calumny may impose for a time on weak and credulous minds, but truth always prevails in the end. All my care and anxiety are for the royal infants my children." After this short speech, she dismissed them. As the Governor had behaved to the Queen so as to merit her Majesty's confidence and esteem, she intrusted him with a letter for the King, which he promised faithfully to deliver into his Majesty's own hands. It must have been very moving, as the King was observed to shed tears in reading it.

Every thing being prepared for her Majesty's accommodation on board Capt. M'Bride's frigate, all her Danish attendants

dants seemed overwhelmed with grief, when their kind mistress expressed her satisfaction for their services, and declared she had no longer occasion for them. None but Sir Robert Keith and Capt. M'Bride attended her Majesty on board the ship, and when she was ready to sail, the guns of that fortress where she had been immured were fired, as the last honour paid to the most amiable and the most unfortunate Queen that ever sat on the Danish throne. Before her Majesty lost sight of land, she was heard several times to mention, in a pensive and sorrowful mode, the names of Frederic and Louisa, the dear objects of her maternal fondness; and she did not even speak to her bedchamber-women, except when necessity required, till within four hours of her landing near Hamburgh. She thanked Captain M'Bride for his care and attention, assuring him, that she would take the first opportunity to recom-

mend him to the King her brother's favour. Mr. M'Bride, declining with respect and modesty the Queen's application in his behalf, beseeched her Majesty to permit him to solicit her interest with the King for his lieutenant, who was a man of tried courage and approved services. This generosity and disinterestedness confirmed her Majesty in the good opinion she had entertained of Mr. M'Bride, whose friend she promised not to forget. As soon as the Queen arrived in the electoral dominions, all classes of people vied with each other in demonstrations of joy, in seeing a princess descended from their ancient sovereigns, whose injuries and misfortunes endeared her still more to their tender concern and affection. Her youth, her beauty, her gracious deportment, captivated all the hearts of those who had the honour to approach her. Having rested a few days in one of the electoral palaces, till the

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the castle of Zell was ready for her Majesty's reception, she was conducted to this princely residence through an immense croud of spectators, who wished this royal guest might long dwell amongst them. This exalted sufferer was never greater than during the latter years which she spent in her retirement.

Matilda was no longer a young unguarded Queen, whose levities had given her enemies too favourable an opportunity to effect her fall; she had learned in the school of adversity, and from the malevolence of Juliana, who had misconstrued even her virtues into vices, to act with such prudence and circumspection as to command a personal respect, independent of Majesty, without being less admired for her gracious condescension and most endearing affability. She appeared at Zell in her true and native character, divested of the retinue and pomp, which on the throne of Denmark veiled her, in a great degree,

degree, from the inspection of impartial judges. She displayed in her little court all the princely and social qualities fit to awe and charm her visitors and attendants; there was in her person such grace and dignity as could not fail to gain her universal love. Though she excelled in all the exercises befitting her sex, birth, and station, and danced the first minuet in the Danish court, she never indulged herself in this polite amusement, of which she had been excessively fond, ever since the masked ball, the conclusion of which had been so fatal and so disgraceful to her Majesty. As one of her pretended crimes had been the delight she took in riding, and the uncommon address and spirit with which she managed the horse, she renounced also this innocent diversion, for fear of giving the least occasion to the blame and censure of the censorious and the ignorant. Her Majesty had an exquisite taste for music,

music, and devoted much of her time to the harpsichord, accompanied by the melodious voice of a lady of her court. There was in her dress a noble simplicity, which exhibited more taste than magnificence. As her mind had been cultivated by reading the works of the most eminent writers amongst the moderns, she read regularly two hours before dinner with Miss Schulemburgh whatever her Majesty thought most conducive to her instruction or entertainment in poets and historians; communicating to each other their observations, with equal freedom and ingenuity. She improved the knowledge she had acquired of the German language, and had a catalogue of the best authors of that learned nation, to converse fluently on subjects of literature with men of taste and erudition. As her manners were the most polished, graceful, and endearing, her court became the resort of per-

sons of both sexes celebrated for their love of the fine arts. The contracted state of her finances could not restrain that princely magnificence and liberal disposition, which made her purse ever open to indigent merit, and distressed virtue. Naturally chearful, and happy in the consciousness of her innocence, adored and revered by the circle of a court free from cabals and intrigues, even the dark cloud of adversity could not alter the sweetness and serenity of her temper. There she was surrounded with faithful servants, who attended her not from sordid motives of ambition, but from attachment and unfeigned regard. They were not the spies and emissaries of an artful, imperious, and revengeful woman; or the evil counsellors of a wretched King, the engine of discord and calumny, and the first slave of his debauched and profligate court. Peace, content, and harmony, dwelt under

der her Majesty's auspices, whose household was like a well-regulated family, superintended by a mistress, who made her happiness consist in doing good to all those who implored her Majesty's compassion and beneficence. Banished with every circumstance of indignity from the throne of Denmark, her noble soul retained no sentiment of revenge or resentment against the wicked authors of her fall, or against the Danish people. Ambition, a passion which never affords enjoyment, never disturbed her peace of mind; she looked back to the diadem which had been torn from her brow, with a calmness and magnanimity which Christina could never attain since her abdication. It was not the crown she regretted; her children only employed all her care and her solicitude; the feelings of the Queen were absorbed in those of the mother; and if she ever manifested by tears her inward grief and perplexity, maternal fondness

fondness caused all those fears and agitations.

The cruel and unjust punishment inflicted upon Matilda for some indiscreet follies of youth, now looked upon by the Danes with some allowance for this amiable princess's endearing virtues and accomplishments, filled the minds of the sensible and generous part of the nation with horror and indignation against the detestable ambition and pernicious measures of Juliana, now seen in her true light, as the first and only cause of all the troubles and calamities of that distracted kingdom. The two noblemen who had suffered an ignominious death upon a scaffold, the exile of his Majesty's most faithful servants, and the vile aspersions cast on divers respectable characters, were attributed to the Dowager's treasonable designs and wicked maxims. The King now perceived his injustice and his errors, a wretched solitary being,

ing, a prey to the most excruciating thoughts and remorse for having been the dupe and instrument of his step-mother's nefarious suggestions against his most injured and guiltless consort, whom he now wished to recall, and to have again seated on his gloomy throne; but his fickleness and imbecility, after these lucid intervals, made him again the contemptible sport of Juliana's devices and perfidy. From this revolution the state has gradually sunk into a languid inaction, torn by intestine factions, and exposed to the insult and derision of a powerful ally, become its enemy.

Matilda was never greater than in her retreat; she explained thus the mental enjoyments of her present condition to her royal sister:

" Zell, Aug. 27, 1772.:

" MADAM, AND DEAR SISTER,

" Thanks to heaven for having made me sensible of the futility and delusion of all worldly pomp and stately nothingness. Believe me, when I tell you that I have not once wished to be again an enthroned Queen. Were my dear children restored to me, I should think, if there is on this earth perfect happiness, I might enjoy it in a private station with them; but the Supreme Disposer of all events has decreed that my peace of mind should be continually disturbed by what I feel on this cruel and unnatural separation. You are a tender mother, and I appeal to your own fondness. Pray give my love to the dear Augusta, and all her brothers: now that she is in her seventh year, she is, I dare say, an agreeable chatty companion. As for Charles, he is, I understand, like his father, born a warrior; nothing but drums, swords,

swords, and horses, can please his martial inclinations. George, Augustus, and William, equally contribute to your comfort and amusement. Tell them I have some little presents I shall send them the first opportunity.

“ You desire to know how I vary my occupations and amusements in this residence. I get up between seven and eight o'clock; take a walk in the gardens if the weather permits, give my instructions to the gardener for the day, observe his men at work with that contented mind which is a continual feast, return to the castle for breakfast, dress myself from ten to eleven, appear in my little circle at twelve, retire to my apartment about one, read or take an airing till dinner, walk again in the gardens for about an hour with some ladies of my retinue, drink tea, play upon the harpsichord, sometimes a little party at quadrille before supper, and am commonly

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monly in bed before twelve. Every Monday I receive petitions from real objects of compassion, and delight in relieving their necessities according to my power; go twice to chapel every Sunday; and thus every week passes in a regular rotation of rational conversation, *lectures amusantes et instructives*, musical entertainments, walks, and little curious needle-work. I see everybody happy around me, and vie with each other in proofs of zeal and affection for my person. Now I can truly say I cultivate friendship and philosophy, strangers to the throne. I expect to see you soon, according to your promise; this visit will add greatly to the comfort of your most affectionate sister,

CAROLINE-MATILDA."

The analogy between the sufferings of the Princess of Zell, consort to George the First, and those of Matilda his great-grand-

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grand-daughter, was a proper theme for the Queen of Denmark's pen and reflections. She attempted to vindicate the memory of the ill-fated Christina against the injurious aspersions of her contemporaries, in the following historical account of her woes and disasters, communicated to the Countess of P——n, a lady of exquisite taste and judgment.

“ Dear P——n,

“ I HAVE been so deeply affected by the recollection of Christina's misfortunes, doomed to perpetual exile in this very castle, where she ended her days, that I have devoted some of my leisure-hours to impart to you freely my thoughts on this most amiable Princess's catastrophe. Your friendship and your indulgence will apologize for the length and inaccuracies of this narrative.

“ George-William, Duke of Zell, numbered among the heroes of the age, sovereign

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vereign of the principalities of Calenberg, Lunenburg, and the counties of Diepholt and Hoise, was brother to Ernest Augustus, Elector of Hanover, the father of George the First. This magnanimous Prince, superior to national prejudices, married a French gentlewoman, whose beauty was the least of her rare accomplishments. Her name was Eleanor Desniers, daughter of Alexander Baron of Olbreuse, in the province of Poitou, in France, who had taken refuge in Germany before the revocation of the edict of Nantz. The house of Hanover, proud of a lineal descent of princes, who, according to the ridiculous notions of the petty German sovereigns, had never contaminated their blood by such an inglorious match, reproached bitterly the Duke of Zell for having offered an unparalleled indignity to their illustrious pedigree; and this preference which he had given to merit

above

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above birth and empty titles, made the Elector his brother his declared and implacable enemy, notwithstanding the lady was afterwards invested with the ducal dignity by the Emperor Leopold, and acknowledged in quality of a Princess of the Empire. Without this creation, her children could not have succeeded to the sovereignty of Zell, and the dukedom of course must have devolved, if no second marriage had intervened, to the Elector.

“ Their union, formed by love, was now cemented by gratitude, and they found in each other's affection and fidelity an uninterrupted happiness: the ducal pair, exhibiting to their subjects such an instance of conjugal love, seldom to be met with in courts, diffused amongst them all the blessings of a mild, beneficent, and equitable administration. They earnestly wished for an heir who might inherit the princely virtues of his
parents,

parents, and prove an equal ornament and happiness to his people. But the only fruit of this marriage was Sophia Dorothy Christina, born September 15, 1666, who became celebrated for the most excellent endowments of body and mind, and still more for her misfortunes. Amidst a number of princes who became her suitors, when in the full bloom of youth and beauty, with all the improvements of education adapted to her rank, the young Prince of Wolfenbittel was distinguished above all his competitors.

“ The Duke and Dukes encouraged his addresses, as far as the Princess their daughter did not check them. She seemed favourable to his declaration, and preparations had been already made for the ceremony of their nuptials.

“ The Elector of Hanover, likely to lose all future prospect of succession to the duchy of Zell for his progeny by this

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this union, thought of all possible means to prevent it; but the progress which the Prince of Wolfenbuttel had already made, the contempt which the Electress Sophia had on all occasions manifested for the Duchess of Zell, and the reciprocal feuds of the two families, were obstacles that seemed insurmountable. Princess Anne, afterwards wedded to George, Prince of Denmark, was the object pointed out by the Electress's ambition for the Prince her son. The royal family of Great-Britain, from which she herself had the honour to be descended, was an incitement to aspire to this alliance. With this design the electoral Prince actually made a visit to England, but he had the mortification to meet with scorn and an absolute denial. Such a disappointment, attended with humiliating circumstances, contributed not a little to reconcile the Electress to the Elector's prospect of marrying

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ing the hereditary Prince of Hanover to the heirs of Zell, and thereby uniting the two dominions under one sovereign.

“ Before the Prince had made a voyage to England, the Electress had expressed her aversion to this match; but as she thought it consistent with the aggrandisement of her house, she took a sudden resolution to bring it about, desirous to preclude another person from the merit of the success. None was better qualified for the management of a reconciliation than the Electress; she was proud, yet condescending when necessary, eloquent and skilled in the arts of courts; though she had treated the Duchess of Zell with flight and haughtiness, her first advances were received by the Duke as a flattering mark of respect and condescension. She no sooner perceived the favourable impression this first overture had made upon the Duke, than she conceived

ceived the project of negotiating herself at the court of the Duke this advantageous marriage. The effect she expected from her personal appearance, added to her insinuating manners and the surprize which this unexpected visit would occasion, engaged her to fix upon this journey without dropping the most distant hint of her intentions. At the close of a fine summer evening her Highness set out for Zell, where she arrived early the next morning, before the Duke and Duchess were up. Their astonishment is more easily imagined than described, on hearing the doors open without their command, and seeing the Electress enter without previous intimation, as she was the person in the world the least expected, and whom perhaps the Duchess was the least desirous to see.

“ She did not keep the Duke long in suspense on the motive of such a freedom, unprecedented amongst princes; she immediately

mediately unravelled to him the mystery of her negociation; but as she knew the Duchess did not understand German, she chose to converse in this language.

“ She made use of all the arguments that eloquence, craft, and policy, could suggest; her persuasions prevailed, and she obtained her suit. In less than two hours she undid what the Prince of Wolfenbittel had been so long labouring to accomplish; and, before she quitted the room, she obtained a positive promise from the Duke to bestow the Princess of Zell upon her son.

“ It was a great mortification to the Duchess not to be trusted with the subject of this extraordinary visit, which she was not to know till after the business that occasioned it was concluded; for though the Duke kept nothing secret from her, the Electress on the first opening of the conversation expressly insisted that the Duchess should not be made acquainted

acquainted with this agreement till after it was performed. The curiosity of the Duchess was still increased by the Duke persisting in his refusal to gratify it; and it was some time after the Electress had retired to take some rest, that she was at last complimented by the Duke as mother to the young Prince of Hanover.

“ She was thunderstruck at this piece of intelligence, and knew not what to reply. To give vent to the most poignant grief, she shut herself up in her cabinet; for the slights put upon her by the house of Hanover could not so soon be obliterated from her incensed mind. The strong prepossession she had in favour of the young Duke of Wolfenbuttel made her feel for his humiliation and disappointment, as soon as he should be apprized of this cruel determination, but more so for the Princess her daughter, who loved him. It seems as if the apprehensions of this connection were the pre-
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sage of the misfortunes that afterwards attended it.

“ Having endeavoured to compose herself, she returned to the Duke, and entreated him, by the most urgent arguments, supported by the affection he bore to his darling child, to change his mind; she dwelt upon the consequences of a breach of faith so insulting to a Prince who had thought himself happy in his consent; as she judged, from the visible contempt in which she herself had ever been held by the Electress, of the dishonourable light she would consider an alliance which interest alone had prompted her to solicit.

“ But all these powerful motives could not prevail on the Duke to retract: neither the consciousness of his own indiscretion, nor his tender concern for the fate of a daughter; neither the tears of his beloved consort, nor the vengeance of an offended Prince, could make him
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alter his resolution. The desire of aggrandizing the house of Lunenburg absorbed all other thoughts, and the Duchess, who had till that fatal interview experienced her ascendancy, lost from that moment her influence, and never recovered it.

“ The royal descent of the Electress, added to a certain dignity of manner that rendered her respectable, flattered the Duke’s vanity; and love, which, in his younger days, had triumphed over every other passion, now yielded to ambition. The Electress took all necessary measures to accelerate the match. She was sensible of the Duchess’s aversion to a match in which she had never been consulted, and she knew, likewise, the power of conjugal respect over a man accustomed to indulge that sentiment. The moment the Electress had obtained the Duke’s consent, she sent for her son. In the mean time she watched the Duke so narrowly,

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and forwarded the marriage-articles with such ardour, that she gave him no time to reflect on the injustice done to the Prince of Wolfenbützel, and the consequences of the violation of his promise. The electoral Prince had contracted an intimacy with Henrietta of Muschenbruck, a lady more remarkable for wit and coquetry, than for the virtuous accomplishments which constitute the glory of the sex. He was, however, obliged to submit to the will of his father in an affair which was considered of great concern to the state. Like most princes, he rather yielded to policy in this contract, than followed the dictates of love. The young Prince of Hanover, whose heart was already pre-engaged, appeared at the court of Zell rather as a suitor to the duchy, than a lover to the Princess, in whose right he was one day to enjoy it; but the address of the Electress his mother supplied all that was wanting in gallantry

gallantry on his side: the day for the nuptial ceremony was fixed upon, and celebrated with all the pomp the shortness of time would allow.

“ The Princess looked upon herself as a state-victim; and, though she was seemingly resigned to paternal injunction, she testified by her sighs the emotions of her heart. As for the Prince, he was naturally sullen, reserved, haughty, and capricious: he was obliged to put on an affectation of joy and satisfaction, and though he gave his hand to his bride, his mistress preserved her empire over his affections. The Duke had perceived the young Prince’s coolness and indifference, which caused him a secret displeasure; but the Duchess foresaw, with sorrow, the unhappiness of this inauspicious marriage. The Electress was the only one who enjoyed the triumph of court-politicians, when success justifies measures.

“ In a few days after the solemnity was over, the Electress and her son set out for Hanover with the bride, who could not conceal her grief and anxiety in parting from her parents.

“ The court of Hanover was then immersed in pleasures and gallantry; a free intercourse between the sexes, and the politeness and splendor which distinguished the electoral residence as the center of taste, made it resorted to by illustrious foreigners of the northern parts of Europe. The marriage of Ernest-Augustus to the Princess Palatine, grand-daughter to James I. added a new lustre to the court, as feasts and entertainments, diversified with elegance and luxury, were the epocha of this alliance, which raised afterwards the progeny of Sophia to the British throne. The young nobility of Zell, emulous to shew their respect to the daughter and heiress of their beloved sovereign, went in a body to congratulate Christina at
the

the court of the hereditary Prince, on an event which promised a happy reconciliation between two houses who had looked upon each other as aliens. Count Koningsmark, a noble Dane, brave, gallant, and generous, appeared at their head. He had been brought up at the court of Zell, and lived from his infancy with the Princess in that freedom and familiarity usual to children. Ever since Christina, pleased with his zeal and assiduity, had distinguished him from her noble attendants; and Koningsmark never was more happy than when waiting upon the Princess. The Count had always considered her as the arbitress of his fate, and wished to continue at the electoral court, under the auspices of his beneficent patroness, to forward his designs of fortune and ambition. His figure, sprightliness, and address, recommended him so effectually to the Elector's attention, that he obtained a commission

in the army, with appointments suitable to his rank. He paid his court assiduously to Prince Charles, youngest son to the Elector, who had the same propensity to pleasure and gallantry as himself. Koningsmark was soon admitted to the Prince's select parties, with two or three favourite ladies; none of the young noblemen who attended him had the same talent to enliven the conversation, and to vary the pleasures of those entertainments; his ready wit, graceful carriage, ease, and dignity, pronounced him the best-bred man in Hanover; and Prince Charles was so delighted in his company, that they became inseparable. This intimacy with Christina's brother-in-law furnished the Count with daily access to her Highness, who was pleased to see the only nobleman who had followed her fortunes so highly honoured by her new relations. She innocently dropped a gracious hint of her gratitude.

gratitude for his zeal and his attachment. Koningsmark was vain and presumptuous; he forgot insensibly the distance at which he stood, and began to flatter himself that the Princess had conceived for him sentiments more tender than bare esteem. He had observed the indifference of her consort, and flattered himself he might be instrumental in heightening her resentment into disgust, and avail himself of a disposition that he thought favourable to his aspiring views.

“ He had experienced the ladies of the higher rank were swayed by the same passions which predominate in the lower class of women, and this illusion inspired him with pretensions which had proved his ruin, had the amiable and virtuous Princess suspected he could harbour such an injurious and unjustifiable notion. Men are too apt to give a wrong construction to female kindness, and to ascribe to sensual motives the purity of

friendship which flows from an unguarded and generous heart. The readiness Koningsmark had manifested on all occasions to receive and obey the commands of her Highness, gave her the highest opinion of his fidelity, and she asked his counsel in a matter of too delicate a nature to be trusted to a young volatile courtier.

“ She could not silently brook with the insolence and haughtiness of the Elector's mistress, who required more homage than his slighted consort: not satisfied with a secret triumph, that lady exulted in proportion as her ascendancy over the Prince was publickly known. Though the Electress was not insensible of her repeated indignities, she prudently affected a total ignorance of her unworthy rival's uncontrouled power and manifest influence, and seemed rather pleased than offended at the extraordinary favours which continually flowed
from

from the condescension of the sovereign she had subdued.

“Christina admired this excess as complaisance which she could not imitate. She was unacquainted with the bewitching allurements of lascivious beauty, and all the arts of an unprincipled courtesan. Alike careless of the resentment of the Countess who captivated the father, and of her sister who acquired an absolute empire over the son, Christina took every occasion that offered to mortify the pride of these two reigning mistresses, holding these minions of vice in utter contempt, whilst she supported the dignity of unspotted virtue with becoming spirit. The Princess being of a chearful disposition, fond of mirth and raillery, Koningmark, who had an equal tendency to indulge this dangerous talent, hit upon a subject which afforded frequent occasions of laughter and ridicule;—the airs

and arrogance of court-mistresses excited his satire. If the Princess's virtue was proof against scandal and defamation, her prudence was not sufficiently guarded against the attacks of malevolence. Surrounded by spies, the Count's visits had been too often repeated to escape injurious suggestions, which seldom fail to leave disadvantageous impressions; and though they had never been permitted without a witness, they had been observed with the most unfavourable construction of malice and unmerited severity. The electoral Prince, who had kept up appearances within the bounds of mere civility to his amiable consort, not only forsook her bed, but avoided her company, and for two whole months together never exchanged a word with her, nor allowed her the opportunity to enquire the cause of this cruel and undeserved treatment. At last, thinking her reputation and her duty were equally

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concerned in soliciting an explanation, she one day had the courage to surprize him in his closet alone, and, with the additional eloquence of her tears, entreated him to let her know the subject of her offence and his displeasure. His stern look and angry tone accompanied this answer, "I know your heart, never presume to disturb me;" and immediately withdrew. In vain she replied that her heart knew no other joy but that of pleasing him; he left her without speaking another word, with all the exterior marks of rage and indignation, a prey to grief and anxiety. She immediately retired to her own apartment, where Madame de Molke waited to pay her court. The Princess, in the first emotions of resentment, gave vent to her affliction, and declared the cause of it, though under the sacred seal of secrecy; adding, as soon as she had recollected herself, that, as she regarded her peace of

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mind,

mind, not to let a word of this conversation transpire, that might still more exasperate the Prince her husband.

“ Madame de Molke soon forgot her promise. She sought a private interview with Koningsmark, in whom she knew the Princess placed confidence, and revealed to him, under the same injunction of secrecy, all that the Princess had entrusted to her, with some additional reflections on the Prince's savage brutality. Koningsmark, fired with rage, flew to the Princess, and, forgetting his dependence, declared he was ready to avenge her wrongs, and the last affront which the worthless Prince had offered her.

“ He had scarce ended this daring and inflammatory speech, when Prince Charles entered the apartment, and surprised him in a violent agitation. The Princess, amazed at his audacity and insinuation, the concealment of which must
involve

involve her in guilt, was at that critical instant determined to banish Koningsmark from her presence. The Prince discovered her perplexity, when Christina, summoning her fortitude, said she was deliberating how she could bring his brother to a due sense of her unfeigned love and respect for him; that this very moment she was on the point of sending for his Highness, to implore his mediation, as she could no longer bear the electoral Prince's slight and displeasure: she added, that she had consulted Koningsmark on proper means of effecting a reconciliation.

“ The Prince promised his best services, and after a short conversation took his leave. Koningsmark was out of decency obliged to follow him. “ Count,” said the Prince, as soon as they could speak without witnesses, “ you seem to be a
 “ distracted lover; be ingenuous, make
 “ me your confident, and if the sove-
 “ reign

“reign of your affections is flexible,
 “trust to my skill.” Koningsmark replied, with some surprize, that he was a general admirer of the court beauties, but that no one in particular had yet fixed his heart. The Prince did not seem satisfied with this answer, and made him understand, that any thing suspected is half discovered. “I shall watch your
 “motions,” said he, “and if I make
 “some discovery, you cannot reproach
 “me with perfidy, since you have not
 “imparted to me an important secret.”

The Count protested his aversion to particular attachments, when the conversation was interrupted by the approach of some officers who joined their company.

The Princess, unable to struggle longer against her inward grief, took to her bed, with all the symptoms of a dangerous disease, which in a few days was pronounced mortal by her physicians.

Bienſeance

Bienfance obliged the Elector and his consort to shew some concern upon this occasion; the Electress seldom left her bedside as long as her life was in suspense, and behaved to her with all the exterior tenderness of a real mother, which the Princess did not fail to acknowledge on her recovery, shewing that she was as sensible of kindness, as she was of disregard.

“ The Prince her husband had visited her, but without manifesting the least sorrow for that harshness and severity to which the Princess owed her dangerous malady.

“ Once she took hold of his hand as he sat upon her bedside, her eyes swimming with tears, “ I am dying, Prince,” said she, “ your rigour has broke my heart; this I did not deserve; but your affections were pre-engaged, and it was my fate to be sacrificed to an imperious rival. If you cannot love,

“ you

“ you may be just. Do me at least the
 “ justice to acknowledge that I do not
 “ suffer for my faults, but through the
 “ severity of my destiny. Living or
 “ dying, you shall be ever dear to my
 “ inmost soul.” A fainting fit put an
 end to this moving speech, and delivered
 the Prince from the embarrassment of
 a reply; before she came to herself, he
 had, with great composure, called in the
 attendants, and quitted the room.

“ When she recovered, she looked
 round for a comforter, but the only ob-
 ject who could alleviate her pains had
 left to her women this difficult task.
 Her spirit and fortitude got at last the
 better of her sorrow; and in a few days
 after, her physicians, who had before re-
 linquished all hopes of her recovery,
 pronounced her out of danger.

“ She was far advanced in her preg-
 nancy, when these hard trials befel her,
 and so near her time, that before she had
 fully

fully recovered her strength, she was brought-to-bed of a Princess, the late Queen-Dowager of Prussia. The recollection of her misfortunes was more than she could withstand; she sunk into a deep and settled melancholy, which all possible care and attention could not remove. During this gloomy interval, she kept her chamber, saw no company, scarce ever spoke or smiled to her attendants, and seemed to have lost all relish for life and its enjoyments.

“ The Electress at last became sensible of her merit, and, touched with her misfortunes, prevailed, by her kind intreaties, on the distracted Christina to retire to Herenhausen, where the Electress accompanied her. This Princess, who loved Prince Charles beyond any of her other children, gained the Elector’s consent that he should be one of the party; and Prince Charles obtained leave for Koningsmark to accompany him.

“ The

“The Electress had a more delicate taste in her pleasures than is usually met with in the courts of Germany. She had read the most elegant writers, conversed with the most polished persons of both sexes, and had derived from her excellent mother, the Princess Palatine, those graces and embellishments of high life, which the ladies alone can attain and practise. Without having recourse to frivolous amusements to divert the Princess’s melancholy, she gradually inspired her with the rational pleasures of a select society, where she found all the instruction and entertainment to be met with in a circle composed of persons distinguished by their sense, knowledge, and delicacy.

“Some walks, ingeniously diversified, and rural amusements adapted to this enchanting spot, were equally conducive to restore the Princess imperceptibly to her wonted gaiety. She had to-
wards

wards the close of the autumn the additional comfort of a visit from the Duke and Duchess of Zell, who were received in the most sumptuous manner at the electoral court.

“ The electoral Prince, on the recovery of his consort, and the arrival of her relations, gave a splendid ball, to which the nobility, foreign ministers, and persons of distinction of both sexes, were invited; all of whom endeavoured to eclipse each other in dress and magnificence. Count Koningsmark, on this occasion, displayed his taste, and those graces, which never fail to make the desired impression.

“ The Elector's mistress, in particular, seemed charmed with the brilliant appearance and irresistible address of the Count; she discovered a flattering partiality for Koningsmark, which he did not fail to improve to his advantage. He considered that the favour of her
who

who governed the Elector was no small acquisition; and that whatever her views might be, he was sure to be the gainer by gratifying them.

“ The Princess’s gay artless disposition ill suited the grave formal temper of the Prince her husband; and the forwardness of the favourite ladies gave a disgust to the Duke and Duchess of Zell; so that those who were most interested in the conduct of this entertainment, were the least pleased with the effect it had produced. The Princess had made no secret to her parents of the treatment she had met with from the Prince her husband; but, instead of shewing a tender concern for her situation, they recommended prudence and submission. They suggested to her that the freedom and levity they had observed in her manners was not suitable to the dignity of her rank; and, on pretence of business, hastened their departure.

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ture. As soon as the visitants had taken leave, the Prince resumed his usual coolness; his visits to the Princess were the mere effects of ceremony, not the dictates of affection; and though the Princess received him with civility, she could not embrace him with rapture.

“ I am afraid I have already tired your patience; but, to conclude, the Elector having discovered Koningsmark's intimacy with his mistress, resolved to punish him for his audacity. The Princess, who had a secret esteem for this nobleman, and an unconquerable aversion to the favourite and imperious Countess, contrived to detach him from this dangerous connection; and her frequent, though guiltless, intercourse with this vain and imprudent courtier, gave rise to reports injurious to her reputation, which the Countess's vindictive spirit, and the Prince her husband's unjust suspicions, did not fail to countenance.

nance. All these circumstances concurred to determine the Prince, who had succeeded to the electoral dignity, to sacrifice his amiable and innocent consort, with Koningenmark, to his pride and jealousy. The Count disappeared on a sudden; and, as a barbarous refinement upon the torments inflicted by the most savage nations on their enemies, was, according to credible persons acquainted with this dreadful catastrophe, burned alive in an oven. The Princess, who had lost her only support in her parents, was condemned to perpetual exile in the castle of Zell, where she expiated, during twenty years, with an amazing fortitude and the most exemplary resignation, the faults of her imprudence and levity. A melancholy instance of an unhappy match, which ambition had formed, and was accomplished with a mutual dislike of both parties."

The

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The Queen had a veneration for the memory of Sophia-Charlotte of Hanover, first consort to Frederic I. King of Prussia, which she expressed to the same lady in the following rapturous expressions:

“ FREDERIC I. founded an academy at Berlin, at the earnest solicitation of Sophia-Charlotte. Her court was a temple where was preserved the sacred fire of the vestals, the asylum of arts and sciences, and the seat of elegance, taste, and politeness. That Princess had the genius of a great man, and the knowledge of the most learned; she thought it was not below the dignity of a Queen to honour a philosopher. This was Leibnitz; and as those who have received from heaven privileged souls raise themselves on the level with sovereigns, she admitted Leibnitz to her conversation with that freedom which characterizes

terizes true merit and discernment. She proposed him as the only man capable to lay the foundation of her new academy. Leibnitz, who had more than one soul, if I may be allowed to use the expression, was worthy of being the first president of a society, which he might have represented alone.

“All the learned in Europe mourned at her death. This celebrated Princess joined to all the exterior accomplishments, and the most endearing charms, the graces of the mind, and of superior understanding. She had travelled in her youth in France and Italy with her august parents. She was destined for the throne of France. Lewis XIV. was struck with her beauty, but political reasons prevented this marriage. She brought into Prussia the spirit of society, true politeness, and the love of the fine arts. She seated upon her throne the muses; and her curiosity was

was such in philosophical inquiries, that she aspired to know the principles of things. Leibnitz, whom she pressed one day upon that subject, said to her Majesty, "Madam, it is not in my power to give a satisfactory answer to your sublime questions; you want to know what no mortal is capable to explain." Charlottenburgh was the rendezvous of men of exquisite taste and literature; all sorts of feasts and entertainments, diversified with that splendor and magnificence which stamped all her public diversions, made this abode delightful, and her court more brilliant than any in Europe.

"Sophia-Charlotte had a magnanimous soul; her religion was pure and free from prejudices and bigotry, the vices of little minds. Her mind was ornamented with the knowledge of the best French and Italian books. She died at Hanover in the bosom of her family.

A Lutheran minister having been introduced into her apartment in her last moments, "Let me die in peace," said she, "without controversy." One of her ladies of honour, whom she tenderly loved, was bathed in tears: "Do not grieve for me," said she, "I shall satisfy my curiosity on the principles of things which Leibnitz could never explain to me, on the space, the infinite, our being, and the consequences of our dissolution; and as the King my husband is fond of pageantry and empty shows, I prepare for him the pomp of my solemn funeral." She recommended, in dying, the learned to whom she had granted a generous protection, and the arts which she had cultivated, to the Elector her brother. Frederic I. made her sumptuous obsequies, and found in that ceremony a consolation for the loss of a consort whom he could never regret enough.

Her

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Her Majesty honoured with a particular favour General P——n's daughter, a most accomplished young lady, who, during her residence at Hanover, was thought worthy of an epistolary correspondence with the Queen. A friend of the author has obtained a copy of the following letters, the first of which consists of ingenious observations upon the country of the English.

“ March 9th, 1774.

“ Dear P——n,

“ YOU Germans boast of your settled climate; as for my part, I prefer that of my native country, notwithstanding the great uncertainty of weather, of which most foreigners complain. We are not subject in England to the extremes of heat and cold as you are here; and that perpetual verdure for which the queen of the isles is admired and envied all over the world is owing to the

refreshing showers and warm vapours of the sea, that incircles that delightful spot.

“ I wish to divest me of all prejudices for or against nations and countries, but I have seen nothing on the continent that can give even a faint idea of nature, in its luxuriant and improved dress, in the English parks and pleasure grounds. The progress which the inhabitants have made in the cultivation of land and gardens, and many other local embellishments, are carried there to a much greater degree of perfection than they are perhaps in any other part of the world, even China not excepted by travellers. No nation, as I am informed, exceeds England in the productions of gardens, which have come to such perfection, that the rarest of foreign fruits are cultivated there with success. No capital city in the world is more plentifully supplied with all kind of roots, fruits, and vegetables, than
London

London and its neighbourhood, though peopled by about a million of souls. The plantations of trees round the houses of noblemen and gentlemen, and even of peasants, are delightful and astonishing; at the same time our seasons indeed are so uncertain that they admit no description. The spring begins sometimes in February, and sometimes in April. In May the face of the country is as often covered with hoary frost as with blossoms. The beginning of June is often as cold as the middle of December, yet sometimes the thermometer rises in that month as high as in Italy. Even August has its vicissitudes of heat and cold, and upon an average September and October bid fair to be the two most agreeable months in the year. The natives sometimes experience all the four seasons within the compass of one day, cold, temperate, hot, and mild weather. Yet England is to foreigners and people of

delicate constitutions more disagreeable than unsalubrious ; however, it cannot be denied that the weather is so excessively capricious and unfavourable to many persons, that they are obliged to fly to warm and settled climates for a renovation of their health. Some attribute the gloomy ideas of the English, which too often prompt them to acts of suicide, to the dense vapours with which the air is loaded ; but the evil probably lies in the people's manner of living, which is more gross and luxurious than that of any other nation. Happily, the greatest irregularity, and the most unfavourable appearances of the seasons, is not, as in other countries, attended with famine, and very seldom with scarcity.

“ The champaign parts of England are generally supplied with excellent springs and fountains, though a discerning palate may perceive that they commonly contain some mineral impregnation.

tion. The English are extremely inquisitive after salubrious waters for the recovery and preservation of their health, and England contains as many mineral wells of known efficacy as perhaps any country in the world.

“ The industry of the English is such as to supply the absence of those favours which Nature has so lavishly bestowed upon some foreign climates, and in many respects even to exceed them. No nation in the world can equal the cultivated parts of England in beautiful scenes. The variety of high and low lands, the former gently swelling, and both of them forming prospects equal to the most luxuriant imagination, the corn and meadow ground, the intermixtures of inclosures and plantations, the noble seats, comfortable houses, cheerful villages, and well-stocked farms, often rising in the neighbourhood of populous towns and cities, decorated with

the most vivid colours of nature, are inexpressible. The most barren spots, rendered fruitful by labour, are not without their verdure. And, I think, no country in Europe equals England in the beauty of its prospects, or the opulence of its inhabitants; though it has delightful rising grounds and the most enchanting slopes, yet it contains few mountains.

“ The rivers in England add greatly to its beauty as well as opulence. The Thames, the noblest perhaps in the world, after fertilizing different countries with the many tributary streams it receives from other rivers, conveys to London the commerce and opulence of the most distant climes.

“ The forests, which produced formerly great quantities of excellent timber, have been, from the wantonness of power, solely designed for the benefit of hunting. That of Windsor has been celebrated

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brated by Pope, whom you so vastly admire. Adieu, my dear P——n; I shall in my next delineate the genius, manners, and persons, of my countrymen.

MATILDA.”

“ April 18, 1774.

“ Dear P——n,

“ AS you did not expect from me a description of England so minutely exact as that of a geographer, your good-nature and attachment to me will apologize for this succinct account of the genius, manners, customs, and diversions, of the English people, which stamp them with a national character different from all other nations. You are become such a proficient in my native language, that I shall for the future correspond with you in plain English. You know the inhabitants of South-Britain are descended from the northern

conquerors, or ravagers, the Saxons, Danes, and Normans. For a century past the French refugees and the prodigious influx of foreigners who have settled in the nation, and intermarried with the natives, have given a cast to their persons and complexions different from those of their ancestors two hundred years ago. In regard to population, as calculators have not been able to ascertain precisely the number of inhabitants in England, I shall, according to the nearest estimate, compute it at seven millions. Those who pretend that England is not so populous as it was before the accession of the ill-fated Charles I. to the crown, attribute the decrease to the excessive use of spirituous liquors, and other luxurious modes of living, to which the English of former ages were strangers.

“Englishmen, in general, are well-sized in their persons, regularly featured, commonly

monly fair and florid in their complexions. The women are reckoned the most beautiful of any in Europe. In the dress of both sexes they follow the French; but that of the military officers, in the late reign, partook of the German, in compliment to George II.

“The English, at present, bid fair to be the dictators of dress to the French themselves, at least with regard to elegance, neatness, and richness of attire. People of quality and fortune, of both sexes, appear, on public occasions, in the most sumptuous dresses and equipages, unrivalled in other countries, for elegance, splendor, and commodiousness. Even tradesmen wear superfine cloth, and excellent linen. In general, the people love rather to be neat than fine in their daily apparel; but the dresses at court, on solemn occasions, are superb beyond description, and the ladies wear a greater quantity of valuable jewels than ever was

seen at other courts. The appearance of a mechanic, on holidays, is commonly an indication of his industry. Of all the people in the world, the English keep themselves the most cleanly. Their own sensibility is one of the sources of those oddities which so strongly characterize them. An apprehension of dying a beggar often kills them in the midst of plenty and prosperity. They magnify the slightest appearance into realities, and bring the most distant dangers immediately home to themselves; and yet, when real danger approaches, no people face it with more resolution or constancy of mind. The English feel, as if it really existed, every evil in mind, body, and estate, which they form in their imagination; at particular intervals they are sensible of this absurdity, and run into a contrary extreme, striving to banish it by dissipation, riot, intemperance, and diversions. They are fond of convivial associations,

associations, which prove the best cure for their mental evils.

“The English nobility and gentry, of great fortunes, now assimilate their manners to those of foreigners, with whom they cultivate a more frequent intercourse than their fathers did: they do not travel only as unexperienced pupils, under the tuition of a despicable pedant, or family dependant; but they visit foreign countries for the purpose of society, in more advanced ages, when their judgments are mature, and their passions regulated. This has introduced the spirit of society into England, which is now frequently visited by French noblemen, and other foreigners; and the effects of this intercourse become, daily, more visible, especially as it is not now confined, as formerly, to one sex.

“Those who do not aspire to move in the high walks of life are more fond of domestic retirement than a splendid way

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way of living. They study, and understand better than any people in the world, conveniency in their houses, gardens, equipages, and estates, and they spare no cost to purchase it. This turn renders them less communicative than they ought to be; but the few connections they form are sincere, chearful, and indissoluble. This love of ease and conveniency is often discernible among tradesmen, as the ultimate end of all their application, labours, and industry. With a good œconomy, and a little run of trade, many are, before fifty, in a condition to retire from business; and they either purchase an estate, or settle their money in the funds. They then commonly reside in a comfortable little house in the country, their stile of living being judiciously suited to their circumstances.

“ No people in the world know better than tradesmen, and men of business, how to pay their court to their customers and employers,

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employers, even by fawning upon, and sometimes bribing, their servants: those arts they consider only as the means of acquiring independence, the pride of which too commonly leads them into a contrary extreme, even that of thinking themselves dispensed of all rules of decency, duty, and subordination. That petulance, so offensive to strangers, originates in that right which the laws of England give to every man over his own property; so that every Englishman has a copious range for unpunished ill-manners, and unprovoked insolence, as the laws take no cognizance of this abuse of liberty, if not carried to acts of violence: this licentiousness is carried in proportion to the mildness of government. Poor and miserable objects are relieved, in England, with a liberality injurious to industry, because it takes from the lower ranks the usual motive of labour, a provision against old-age and

and infirmity. Every parish is taxed for the maintenance of their poor, insomuch that there can be no beggar in England, but through choice and indolence.

“ Notwithstanding the general contributions, England abounds with objects of distress, wholly in defiance of the laws, which render the practice severely punishable: this is owing to the manner in which the common people live, who consider the food to be uneatable which in other countries would be thought luxurious. The English, though irascible, are the most placable people in the world, and will often sacrifice part of their interest, rather than proceed to extremity; they are easily prevailed upon to forgive, by submission. The unsuspecting nature, and the honest open manners, of those in the mercantile way, render them dupes in several respects; they attend to projectors, and no scheme is so ridiculous that will not find abettors in England.

“ They often assist their creditors, on account of misfortunes in trade, deserved or accidental, pretended or real, and generously contribute to their relief; the lowest bred of the English are capable of such generous actions. There is, amongst all the classes of people, a most unpardonable preference given to wealth, over all other considerations; riches, both in public and private, compensate for the absence of every good quality. This sordid deference arises from the possession of property, which is a qualification for the legislature, magistracy, government, honours, and distinctions.

“ The same attention to property operates in many other shapes among the lower classes, who think it gives them a right to be rude and disregarding of all about them. Nor are the highest orders exempt from the same failure; the same principle often influences their exterior appearances. Noblemen of the first rank
have

have been often seen laying bets with the lowest mechanics, at horse-races, and boxing-matches.

“ An Englishman, through education and reading, is the most accomplished gentleman in the world; he is, however, shy in his common actions, even to disgust. This unamiable coldness is so far from being affected, that it is a part of their natural constitution.

“ The unevenness of the English in their conversation is very remarkable; sometimes it is delicate, sprightly, and replete with true wit; sometimes solid and ingenious; sometimes it is cold and phlegmatic, and borders upon disgust, and all in the same person. In their convivial meetings they are generally noisy, and their wit is often offensive. Courage is a quality that seems congenial to the English nature. They are not remarkable for invention, though they are for their improvements upon the inventions of

of others, and in the mechanical arts they excel all nations in the world. Every day produces strong indications of alterations in their manners. The vast fortunes made during the last war, and the vast commercial property, have introduced a species of people among the English, who have become rich without industry, and disseminated, among the mercantile part of the nation, a spirit of luxury and gaming that is attended with the most fatal effects, and an emulation to equal or surpass the nobility and courtiers. The plain frugal manners of men of business are now disregarded for tasteless extravagance in dress and equipage, and the most expensive amusements and diversions, not only in the capital, but all over the kingdom. The favourite diversions are, operas, dramatic exhibitions, ridottos, and masquerades, in London; concerts of music, card and dancing assemblies, are common all over the kingdom.

kingdom. Italian fingers, and French dancers, are esteemed the only persons of talents amongst foreigners, and rewarded with a shameful profusion. For twenty years past, the English ladies have endeavoured to excel the French women in all the arts of coquetry, and the refinements of luxury, and sensual gratifications. For fear of being thought too severe upon my fair country-women, I conclude this epistle, already too long, and have nothing to add, but that I wish often for you;

And am sincerely your friend,

MATILDA."

" June 9, 1774.

" Dear P——n,

" **THOUGH** a woman should be acquainted with polite literature, custom has precluded our sex from the cultivation of the sciences: however, we cannot plead a reasonable excuse for being ignorant

ignorant of the history of our own country, and of the men of genius and learning it has produced.

“ England has been reputed, in the most early times, the seat of the Muses. The Great Alfred, in the time of the Saxons, when ignorance and barbarism overspread the rest of Europe, struck, in the dark, the first spark which disseminated the twilight of learning among his subjects : since his reign, a continual succession of learned men have distinguished themselves by their writings, and their studies. The two Universities of Oxford and Cambridge are institutions not to be matched in the world, and which were respected even amidst the barbarous rage of civil wars. Several of the blood royal, of both sexes, of the Saxon line, were equally devoted to Mars and the Muses.

“ In the dark ages arose a prodigy of learning, and natural philosophy ; Roger Bacon,

Bacon, a Franciscan monk, the forerunner, in science, to the immortal Chancellor Bacon, Lord Verulam, as this was to Sir Isaac Newton, the wonder of the universe. Several noble and royal English authors, mentioned by Mr. Walpole, have done honour to learning and the Muses. Cardinal Wolsey, though otherwise a dangerous and profligate minister, by his example and encouragement, laid the foundation of the polite arts, and the revival of classical learning in England. As many of the English clergy had different sentiments in religious matters at the time of the Reformation, encouragement was given to learned foreigners to settle in England. Edward VI. during his short life, patronized these refugees, and shewed a disposition for cultivating the most useful sciences, had he lived. Learning, as well as liberty, suffered an almost total eclipse in England during the bloody bigotted reign of
Queen

Queen Mary. Elizabeth, her sister, was, herself, a learned princess: she advanced many persons of consummate abilities to high ranks, both in church and state; but she seems to have considered their literary accomplishments as secondary to their civil. In this she shewed herself a great politician, but she would have been a more amiable Queen, had she raised genius from obscurity; for though she was no stranger to Spencer's muse, she suffered herself to be so much imposed upon by an unfeeling minister, that the poet languished to death in obscurity; though she admired the beauties of the inimitable Shakespeare, it does not appear that he was distinguished by any particular acts of her munificence: but her parsimony was nobly supplied by her favourite, the Earl of Essex, the greatest scholar of his age, and his friend, the Earl of Southampton, who were patrons of genius.

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“ The encouragement of learned foreigners in England continued to the reign of James I. who was very munificent to them, even those of different principles. He was himself no great writer, but his example had a wonderful effect upon his subjects, for in his reign flourished eminent divines; and Francis Bacon, who first discovered the valuable and inexhaustible mines of knowledge, was by him created Viscount Verulam, and Lord High Chancellor of England. He was likewise the patron of Camden and other historians, as well as of antiquarians, whose works are to this day standards in these studies. Therefore it cannot be denied that English learning is under great obligations to this monarch.

“ Charles I. his son, had a taste for the polite arts, especially sculpture, painting, and architecture. He was the patron of Rubens, Vandyke, Inigo Jones, and

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and other eminent artists; and, had it not been for the civil wars, he would probably have converted his court and capital into a second Athens, as the collections he made for that purpose, considering his pecuniary difficulties, were stupendous. His favourite, the Duke of Buckingham, imitated him in that respect, and laid out the amazing sum of four hundred thousand pounds sterling upon his cabinet of paintings and curiosities. The Earl of Arundel was, however, the great Mæcenæ of that age, and, by the immense acquisitions he made of antiquities, especially his famous marble inscriptions, may be placed upon a footing, as to the encouragement and utility of literature, with the greatest of the Princes of Medicis. Charles I. and his court had little or no relish for poetry.

“The public encouragement of learning and the arts suffered, indeed, an eclipse
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during

during the time of the civil wars, and the succeeding usurpation: many very learned men, however, found their situations under Cromwell, though he was no stranger to their political sentiments, so easy, that they pursued their studies, to the great benefit of every branch of learning, and many works of great literary merit appeared even in these times of distraction: Milton was the Secretary of the Usurper, and many great names were unmolested by him.

“ The reign of Charles II. was chiefly distinguished by the institution of the Royal Society, and the great proficiency in natural knowledge. The King himself was an excellent judge of these studies; and, though irreligious himself, England abounded in his reign with learned divines. He loved painting and poetry, but was far more munificent to the professors of the former than the latter. The incomparable *Paradise Lost*, by Milton, was published

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published in his reign, but so little read, that the impression did not pay the expence of 15l. given by the bookseller for the copy. The reign of Charles II. notwithstanding the bad taste of his court in several of the polite arts, by some is reckoned the Augustan age in England, and is dignified with the most respectable names. Classic literature recovered many of its native graces; Sir Christopher Wren introduced a more general regularity than ever had been known before in architecture; and many excellent painters flourished in his reign. Tho' James II. had likewise a taste for the fine arts, his prejudices and his misfortunes prevented them from taking root in his unpopular reign.

The names of Newton and Locke adorned the reign of William III. a prince who neither understood nor loved learning or genius in any shape. It flourished, however, in his reign merely by

the excellency of the soil in which it had been planted.

“ Learning and the polite arts received such improvements under the auspices of Queen Anne as put her court at least on a footing with that of Lewis XIV. in its most splendid days. Many of the great men who had figured in the reigns of the Steuarts and William were still alive, when a new race sprung up in the republic of learning and the arts. A group of excellent writers, both in verse and prose, need but be mentioned to be admired; and the English were as triumphant in literature as in war.

“ Natural and moral philosophy kept pace with the polite arts.

“ The ministry of George I. were the patrons of erudition, and some of them were no mean proficient themselves. In this reign a poet held the pen of the First Secretary of State, though Mr. Addison's talents were very inadequate to the post.

George

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George II. was himself no Mæcenas, yet his reign yielded to none of the preceding in the number of learned and ingenious men it produced. The favour of the public generally supplied the coldness of the court towards literary merit. It was not till after the rebellion of 1745 that men of genius began to taste the royal bounty.

“Without partiality to the reign of the present King, my brother, his reign promises to renew a golden age to learning and all the arts. The institution of a royal academy, and his Majesty’s munificence to men of merit in every study, have already thrown a refulgence round his court which must endear his memory to future generations. I conclude with the same sentiments for you.

MATILDA.”

" July 16, 1774.

" Dear P——n,

" I HAVE lately read with surprize and admiration the Lives of the Czar Peter Alexiowitz, and of Charles XII. his antagonist; no other pencil but that of Voltaire could have expressed the passions which prompted these extraordinary princes to attain glory and reputation, by deeds which will cause the astonishment of posterity, as well as that of their cotemporaries.

" The Czar Peter left his dominions in search of the arts of civilization, unknown in his vast and wretched empire. He appeared first in the retinue of that embassy sent to Frederic III. Elector of Brandenburg. He had perceived, by the strength of his own genius, that he was a barbarian, and that his subjects were savages. He formed the noble project to instruct himself, and to bring to his own country the improvements of reason
and

and industry. Nature had made this prince a great man, but a total want of education had left him a slave to a brutal and capricious instinct. This accounts for the extraordinary contrast of his great actions and singularity of salutary designs, and the most odious acts of cruelty and vengeance. He complained himself, that, having polished his nation, he could not subdue his own ferociousness. In morality he was a phenomenon which inspired horror and admiration. In regard to his subjects, he was like a storm that roots out trees and destroys towers and palaces, while the rain fertilizes the country around. From Berlin he went to Holland and to England, where he worked as a ship-carpenter, to create a navy, and enrich his dominions with the commerce of other countries.

“The Czar, with Charles XII. greatly signalized themselves in the Northern parts of Europe. The youth of the latter had

inspired his neighbours with the audaciousness to attack him; but they found in him a prince who joined to an impetuous courage an implacable spirit of vengeance. This Alexander of the North, who would have resembled in every thing the Macedonian conqueror, if he had had the same fortune, had gained a complete victory near Riga over the Saxons. The King of Denmark and the Czar had attacked the young hero, one in Norway, the other in Livonia: Charles XII. forced the Danish monarch in his capital to subscribe to the conditions of an inglorious peace; from thence he marched with 8000 Swedes into Livonia, defeated 80,000 Russians near Nerva, and obtained another victory over 30,000 Saxons at the passage of the river Dwina. The years 1701 and 1702 were the epocha of the triumphs of the King of Sweden: he disposed of Poland as a sovereign, his negotiations were orders, and his battles victories; but

but those victories, shining as they were, consumed the victors, and obliged the hero to renew often his army. Nothing resisted the ascendancy of the Swedish arms: the genius of Peter I. and the magnificence of Augustus, King of Poland, were inefficacious against the fortune of Charles. The young monarch was more valiant than the Czar, and more vigilant than the King of Poland. Peter preferred artifice to audaciousness, Augustus pleasure to fatigue, and Charles the love of glory to the possession of the universe.

“The Saxons had been often surprized and defeated; the Muscovites learned at their expence to make prudent retreats. The Swedish armies, victorious till then, acted always offensively; but Charles XII. whose inflexible obstinacy never yielded to prudence, executed all his projects by main force; he subdued fortune as he did his enemies. The Czar and

the King of Poland added to this valour of enthusiasm by the intrigues of the cabinet; they awaked the jealousy of Europe, and thereby created envy against the fortune of a young ambitious prince, whose hatred was implacable, and punished the Kings his enemies in dethroning them. Having reached the highest pinnacle of prosperity, and dethroned Augustus, King of Poland, Charles imposed the hard conditions of a peace on his enemy at Albrenstadt in Saxony. His intention was to renew the same scene with the Czar at Moscow. He obliged the Emperor, in marching through Silesia, to restore to the Protestants 125 churches in that Duchy. The Pope murmured, and did not spare his censures. Joseph answered, that if the King of Sweden had proposed to him to turn Lutheran, he did not know exactly what would have happened.

“ Fortune, at last, was tired to favour
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the caprices of Charles XII. He had enjoyed nine years of triumph. The last nine years of his life were a continual succession of disasters. He had entered victorious into Poland with a formidable army, loaded with the treasures and the spoils of the Saxons.

“Leipfic was the Capua of the Swedes; perhaps the fertile and delightful plains of Saxony had enervated their courage, or prosperity had intoxicated Charles, and carried him beyond the limits of human sagacity; he experienced afterwards nothing but reverses. His project was to dispose of Russia as he had done of the kingdom of Poland, and to dethrone the Czar as Augustus, his ally. According to this plan, he advanced towards the frontiers of Muscovy, where he had the choice of two roads, one through Livonia, contiguous to the Swedish provinces, from which he might have received a subsistence for his army,

and easily reach the new city which the Czar at that time founded upon the borders of the Baltic, and thus destroy for ever the projected junction of Russia with Europe; the other road through Uckrania led to Moscow amidst impracticable deserts. Charles XII. resolved to march through these wild and uninhabited regions, because the difficulty of the undertaking stimulated the exertion of his courage, relying besides upon Matrepa, Prince of the Cosaques, who had promised him to supply his army with provisions, and to join him with a numerous body of his dependents. The Czar was informed of the intrigues of Matrepa; he dispersed his forces, and took his magazines: and when the King of Sweden arrived before the little town of Pultawa, he found nothing but dreary wilds instead of magazines, a fugitive Prince who sought for an asylum in his camp,

camp, instead of a powerful ally who brought him succours.

“ These disappointments did not dispirit Charles. He besieged Pultawa as if he had wanted nothing. He had been till then invulnerable; but he was wounded in the leg in reconnoitring this insignificant place. General Lowenhaupt, who was bringing him provisions, ammunition, and 13,000 men, was defeated by the Czar in three successive engagements, and obliged in this necessity to burn the convoys which he escorted. He arrived at the King's camp with 3000 men, exhausted by fatigues and skirmishes.

“ The Czar advanced towards Pultawa, and in that plain was fought the famous battle between the two most extraordinary men of the age.

“ Charles XII. who had been till then the arbiter of fate, had found nothing that could stop the progress of his victorious

rious legions; he did more than could be expected from a Prince wounded, and borne on a litter. Peter I. who had shone till this day as a legislator, assisted by Mentzikow, displayed in this battle all the abilities of a great captain, and surpassed himself: but every thing proved fatal to the Swedes; the wound of the King, which put it out of his power to act; the misery, which deprived the army of his strength and vigour; the number of their enemy; and the time they had to take an advantageous position. At last, the Swedes were defeated; and lost, in a decisive and unhappy instant, the fruits of nine years victories, and so many prodigies of valour.

“ Charles XII. was reduced to seek an asylum in the Turkish dominions, and to retire to Bender, where he tried in vain to raise the Porte against the Muscovites. Thus he became the victim of
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his inflexible spirit and obstinacy. After this defeat the Swedish army laid down their arms before the Czar on the banks of the Boristhenes, as the Muscovite army had done before Charles XII. near the Baltic, after the battle of Nerva. Adieu ! my dear : enough of these savage conquerors from your sincere friend,

MATILDA."

The following remarks of Queen Matilda, on the Danish dominions, prove that her Majesty's attention had been directed to the knowledge of the people and the country which she looked upon as the seat of her royal beneficence; they had been transcribed by Madame d'O——, her First Lady of the Bed-chamber.

" It is computed that the possessions of the King of Denmark contain about 163,000 square miles, by the latest accounts from the missionaries employed for

for the conversion of the Greenlanders; their whole number does not amount to above 1000 stated inhabitants, the roving Southlanders not included. There is a great resemblance between the aspect, manner, and dress, of these natives and the Esquimaux Americans, from whom they naturally differ but little, even after all the pains which the Danish and German missionaries have taken to convert and civilize them. They live in huts during the winter, which is incredibly severe; but in their longest summer-days it is so hot that the inhabitants are obliged to throw off their garments. They have no trade, though they have a most improveable fishery upon their coasts; but they employ all the year either in fishing or hunting, in which they are very dexterous.

“ The taking of whales in the seas of Greenland, among the fields of ice that have been increasing for ages, is one of the

the greatest curiosities in nature. These pieces of ice are frequently more than a mile in length, and upwards of an hundred feet in thickness; and when they are put in motion by a storm, nothing can be more terrible. Though the Danes claim the country of East-Greenland, where the whales are taken, the Dutch have in a manner monopolized this fishery.

“ Iceland extends from East to West about 720 miles. The inhabitants are supposed to be about 80,000. This country has been depopulated by the small-pox and pestilential diseases. The Deputy-Governor, appointed by the King of Denmark, resides at the royal palace of Reffsted, on a salary of 400 rix-dollars, and has magistrates under him both in civil and spiritual cases. The people are naturally hardy, honest, and industrious: they amuse themselves with chess and singing. The commerce of this island

island is monopolized by a Danish company. The most wealthy are strangers to the superfluities of other countries, and few have the necessaries of life. As Iceland affords no bait for avarice or ambition, the inhabitants depend entirely upon his Danish Majesty's protection, and the revenue he draws from the country amounts to about 30,000 crowns a year.

“The Faro Islands, lying in a cluster, are about 24 in number: the space of this cluster extends about 60 miles in length, and 40 in breadth. The trade and income of the inhabitants, who may be about 3000, add little or nothing to the revenues of Denmark.

“Jutland, and the islands at the entrance of the Baltic Sea, computed 240 miles in length, and 180 miles in breadth, make what is called Denmark Proper. It is divided from Sweden on the East by the Sound, on the South by the Baltic,

tic, on the North from Norway, and the German Sea divides it from Great-Britain on the West.

“ Denmark produces an excellent breed of horses, both for the saddle and carriage. The language of the country is a dialect of the Teutonic. The bishops have no ecclesiastical courts, nor the smallest concern with civil affairs; however, they are held in great veneration among the people. The university of Copenhagen wants the royal encouragement to flourish in the learned world. The Danes, in general, make no great figure in literature. Tycho Brahe, Boi-rachius, and the Bartholines, have acquired a great reputation in astronomy and medicine. Few have succeeded in their attempts in history, poetry, and the drama: their imagination is as cold as their climate. They are bigotted to their ancient manners and customs; which prejudices prevent the arts of civilization

lization from thriving in this unfriendly soil. Indeed, police, commerce, and manufactures, were on the reviving hand under the auspices of the late King, renowned for his wisdom and sagacity.

“ The army costs little to the crown, but is burthensome to the nation: great part of the infantry lie in Norway, where they live upon the boors at free quarters; and in Denmark the peasantry are obliged to maintain the cavalry in victuals and lodging, and even to furnish them with money. Christian VII. has attempted to re-establish the naval force of his kingdom, but his unsuccessful attack upon Algiers has exposed him to the contempt of the piratical states of Barbary, notwithstanding his ambition to rank as a maritime power. The Danes, in general, are good seamen; Copenhagen has a fine capacious harbour; and the naval establishment consists of thirty ships of the line.

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“ The civil constitution in Denmark, in its present despotic state, arises out of the ruins of the aristocratic powers which the nobility exercised over their inferiors with most intolerable tyranny. Formerly their Kings were elective, and might be deposed by the convention of the estates, which included the representatives of the peasants. The King's royalty gave him pre-eminence in the field and in the courts of justice, but no revenues were attached to it; and, unless he had a great estate of his own, he was obliged to live like a private nobleman. In process of time, however, the regal dignity became hereditary, the state having tacitly acquiesced to that mode of government, to prevent the calamities they had experienced from civil wars and disputed successions. A series of unsuccessful wars had rendered the nation in general so miserable, that the public had no money for paying off the army; the nobles pleaded

pleaded an exemption from taxes, which falling too heavy upon the commons, they applied to the King for relief and protection from their oppressors; in this they were encouraged by the clergy, who made jointly a solemn tender of their liberties and services to the Monarch, establishing in his family the hereditary succession to the crown. The King accepted of their submission; and the nobles, finding the nerves of their power were thus cut, were forced to yield to the royal authority, strengthened by the majority of his subjects. Few princes have abused the despotic powers vested in them since this great revolution. Happy if the present King had imitated the prudence and moderation of his progenitors!

“ The administration of civil justice, formerly considered as a model for other nations, has been lately perverted to the most iniquitous purposes of inveterate malice,

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malice, nefarious calumny, and female vengeance. The code of the Danish laws, drawn up in the language of the country, in a plain and perspicuous manner, and upon simple principles of justice, has been cancelled by the most wicked and unprecedented influence; and the civil policy, lately established for the safety of the people, has been abrogated by the most flagitious acts of violence and oppression. The nobles are corrupt, debauched, vain, and rapacious; the common people indolent, superstitious, intemperate, mistrustful, and strongly attached to their provincial habits and vices.

“ By an exact numeration, made in 1759, of the subjects of his Danish Majesty, they amounted to 2,444,000 souls, exclusive of Greenland and Zealand; a far greater number than could have been expected from the uncultivated state of his possessions. Their foreign settlements
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are, Tranquebar in the peninsula of Indus, the island of St. Thomas in the West-Indies, which is a free port; and the town of Christianburg on the coast of Guinea.

“ The King’s revenues arise from the impositions he lays upon his own subjects, the duty paid by foreigners, and the tolls paid by foreign ships that pass through the Sound into the Baltic. This tax forms a capital part of his Majesty’s revenue, with his own demefne lands. The expences of fortifications are borne by the people: and when the King’s daughter is married, they pay above 100,000*l.* for her portion. The internal taxes are abated or raised at the King’s will. The gross revenue of Denmark amounts to 700,000*l.* a year; a sum which in that country is sufficient to maintain the dignity of the Sovereign, and to supply the exigencies of the state.

“ Few interesting events in Denmark preceded

preceded the year 1387, when Margaret mounted the throne; and partly by her address, partly by hereditary right, she formed the union of Calmar; by which she was acknowledged Sovereign of Sweden, Denmark, and Norway. She held her dignity with such firmness and courage, that she was justly stiled the Semiramis of the North. About the year 1448 the crown of Denmark fell to Christian, Count of Oldenburg, from whom the present royal family of Denmark is descended. This race has produced some brave and spirited princes.

“ In 1513, Christian II. one of the most detestable tyrants that modern times have produced, ascended the throne of Denmark; and, having married the sister of the Emperor Charles V. he gave a full loose to his innate cruelty. Being driven out of Sweden for the bloody massacre he committed there, the Danes rebelled against him likewise, and he

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fled with his wife and children into the Netherlands.

“About the year 1536, the Protestant religion was established in Denmark, by that wise and politic prince Christian III.

“Christian IV. a brave, though unsuccessful monarch, was chosen, in 1629, for the head of the Protestant league formed against the House of Austria.

“Frederic III. a prince of great abilities both civil and military, by the persuasion of the Dutch, declared war against Charles Gustavus, King of Sweden, which imprudent step had almost cost him his crown in 1657. Frederic defended his capital with great magnanimity till the peace of Roschild; but having sought to elude the severe terms imposed by the conqueror, Charles once more besieged Copenhagen by sea and land. The citizens made an admirable defence; and Charles having been forced to raise the siege, the steady intrepid conduct of Frederic

Frederic under the most imminent dangers, and his attention to the safety of his subjects, even preferably to his own, endeared him so much in their eyes that they rendered him absolute.

“Frederic was succeeded, in 1670, by his son Christian V. His army was twice defeated by Charles XII. of Sweden, and the victory of Landskron subdued at last Christian’s obstinacy: he had almost exhausted his dominions in military operations, till he was in a manner abandoned by all his allies, and forced to sign a treaty on the terms prescribed by France in 1679. Christian, however, did not desist from his military attempts, and became the ally and subsidiary of Lewis XIV. who was then threatening Europe with chains. He died in 1699, and was succeeded by Frederic IV. He was perpetually engaged in wars with the Swedes, who defeated his army at Gadesbusch, and laid his favourite city of Altona in ashes:

but Frederic revenged himself by forcing the Swedish General Steinbock to surrender himself prisoner, with all his troops. In the year 1716, the successes of Frederic were so great against the Swedes, that his allies began to suspect he was aiming at the sovereignty of all Scandinavia. Upon the return of Charles XII. from his exile, he renewed the war against Denmark with a most embittered spirit: but, on the death of that rash and inveterate enemy, a peace was concluded at Stockholm, which left Frederic in possession of Sleswic.

“ Frederic died in 1730, after having seen his capital reduced to ashes by an accidental fire. His son and successor Frederic-Christian made no other use of his power, and the advantages with which he mounted the throne, than to cultivate the arts of peace, and to promote the happiness of his subjects, whom he eased of many oppressive taxes. Though
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he was pacific, yet he was conscious of his rights. He availed himself of George the Second's predilection for his German dominions; for he agreed to pay Christian a subsidy of 70,000*l.* sterling a year, on condition of keeping in readiness 7000 troops for the protection of Hanover. This was a gainful bargain for Denmark. Christian led so great a party in Sweden, that it was generally thought he would revive the union of Calmar, by procuring his son to be declared successor to the crown of Sweden. This design was frustrated by the jealousy of other powers, who could not see with unconcern all Scandinavia subject to one family. Christian died in 1746, with the character of being the father of his people.

“ His son and successor Frederic V. had, in 1743, married the Princess Louisa of England. Beloved and revered by the Danes, he improved upon his father's plan for the happiness of his sub-

jects, and was a mediator in the German war: for it was by his intervention that the treaty of Closter Seven was concluded between the late Duke of Cumberland and Marshal Richlieu. He died in 1766, and left behind him the reputation of one of the greatest monarchs that ever filled the throne of Denmark.

“ Norway is computed to be 750 miles in length, and 170 in breadth. It is reckoned one of the most mountainous countries in the world. Dofrefield is counted the highest mountain, perhaps, in Europe; and, to pass that of Hardanger, a man must travel about seventy English miles. The rivers and cataracts which intersect these dreadful precipices, and are passable only by slight, tottering wooden bridges, render travelling in this country very terrible and dangerous; though the government is at the expence of providing, at different stages, houses accommodated with fire, light, and some kitchen

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kitchen utensils. Some of these immense mountains have reservoirs of water on the top; and the whole form a most surprising landscape. The activity of the natives in recovering their sheep and goats, when penned up, through a false step, in one of these rocks, is wonderful. The owner directs himself to be lowered down from the top of these mountains, sitting on a cross stiek tied to the end of a long rope; and when he arrives at the place where the creature stands, he fastens it to the same cord, and it is drawn up with himself. The caverns that are to be met with in these mountains are stupendous. One of them, called Dolsteen, was, in 1750, visited by two clergymen, who proceeded in it till they heard the sea dashing over their heads. The passage is as wide and high as an ordinary church, the sides perpendicular, and the roof vaulted. They descended a flight of natural stairs; but when they arrived at

another, they durst not venture to proceed. They consumed two candles going and returning.

“ The most extraordinary circumstances attending the lakes in this country are, that some of them contain floating islands formed by the cohesion of roots and shrubs; and, though torn from the main land, bear herbage and trees. So late as the year 1702, the noble family-seat of Borge, near Fredericstadr, suddenly sunk, with all its towers and battlements, into an abyss a hundred fathom in depth, and its site was instantly filled with a piece of water, which formed a lake 300 ells in length, and about half as broad. This melancholy accident, by which fourteen people and 200 head of cattle perished, was occasioned by the foundation being undermined by the waters of a river.

“ The chief wealth of Norway lies in its forests, which furnish foreigners with masts, beams, planks, and serve besides
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for the construction of houses, ships, bridges, and for charcoal to the founderies. The sums which Norway receives from timber are very considerable. A tenth of all sawed timber belongs to his Danish Majesty, and forms a principal part of his revenue. The climate of Norway varies according to its extent. At Bergen, the winter is moderate, and the sea is practicable. The eastern parts are commonly covered with snow, and the cold generally sets in about the middle of October, with intense severity, to the middle of April, the waters being all that while frozen to a considerable thickness. In 1719, 7000 Swedes, who were on their march to attack Drontheim, perished in the snow, on the mountains which separate Sweden from Norway; and their bodies were found in different postures. The cold is so intense in the more northerly parts of this country, that they are little known. At Bergen

the longest day consists of about nineteen hours, and the shortest about six. In the summer the inhabitants can read and write at midnight, by the light of the sky; and in the most northerly parts, about midsummer the sun is continually in view: in these parts, however, in the middle of winter, there is only a faint glimmering of light at noon, for about an hour and a half, owing to the reflection of the sun's rays on the mountains. Nature, notwithstanding, has been so kind to the Norwegians, that, in the midst of their darkness, the sky is so serene, the moon and the Aurora Borealis so bright, that they can work at their trades in open air.

“ The summer in Norway is proportionally hot, so that vegetation is incredibly quick; for in two months barley is sown, grows, ripens, and is cut down. The air is so pure in some of the inland parts, that the inhabitants live so long as to be tired of life, and cause themselves
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to be transported to a less salubrious air. Sudden thaws and snow-falls have sometimes dreadful effects, and destroy whole villages.

“ The magnet is found in the iron mines of Norway, as well as the amanthus or asbestos, the delicate fibres of which are woven into cloth, and cleaned by the fire. Norway gold has been coined into ducats. A silver mine is now working to great advantage at Koningsberg; and one of the many silver masses that have been discovered, weighing 560 pounds, is to be seen at the Royal Museum at Copenhagen. The copper mine at Norway is thought to be the richest in Europe. The mines of quick-silver, sulphur, vitriol, and allum, when manufactured, bring in a large revenue to the crown.

“ The wild beasts peculiar to Norway are, the elk, a tall ash-coloured animal, its shape partaking at once of the horse and the stag; it is harmless, and in

the winter social: their flesh tastes like venison. The Norwegian bears are strong and sagacious; they are remarkable for not hurting children. The lynx are of the cat kind, and have claws like tygers, smaller than a wolf, but more ravenous. The skin of the lynx is beautiful and valuable, as is that of the black fox. The glutton resembles a turn-spit dog; his variegated fur is so precious, that he is shot with blunt arrows to preserve the skin unhurt. The ermine is a little creature remarkable for its shyness and cleanliness: their fur forms a principal part even of royal magnificence.

“ Among the great variety of birds peculiar to Norway, are, the cock of the wood, of a dark-grey colour, his eyes resembling those of a pheasant: he is reckoned the largest of all eatable birds. The land-eagle is so strong, that he has been known to carry off a child two years old: the sea or fish eagle is the largest; he subsists on aquatic food. “ The

“ The Scandinavian lakes and seas abound with all fish that are found on the sea-coasts of Europe. Above 150,000 people are maintained by the fishery on the coast of Norway. The sea-snake, one of the wonderful productions of the Norwegian seas, is no longer counted a chimera. In 1756, one of them was shot by a master of a ship; its head resembled that of a horse with a white mane hanging from its neck; it floated on the surface of the water, and held its head at least two feet out of the sea: the length of this snake was more than 100 yards. The skin of this monster is variegated as a tortoise-shell. The kraken, whose existence is proved so strongly as to put it out of all doubt, is said to be more than a mile in circumference: when part of it appears above water, it resembles a number of small islands and sand-banks, on which fishes disport themselves, and sea-weeds grow. The mermaid is often found

found in the Norwegian seas, and has some resemblance to the human species.

“ The Norwegians are more civilized than the Greenlanders, but not so polished as the Danes. They are governed by a Viceroy, absolute like his master. In general, they are a strong, robust, brave, hospitable, and religious people; but quick in resenting real or supposed injuries. The women are handsome and courteous. Every inhabitant is an artisan, and supplies his family in all its necessities with his own manufacture; so that they have few mechanics, by profession, amongst them: the lowest Norwegian peasant is an artist, a gentleman, and even a poet. They decide their quarrels by duels. Though they are frugal in their ordinary way of living, they have particular times and seasons when they indulge themselves even to intoxication; and those sometimes produce fatal effects. They are reduced to extraordinary

nary shifts for supplying the place of bread, or farinaceous food. The manners of the middling Norwegians are simple and uniform; they are neither fond of luxury nor dread penury: this middle state prolongs their age surprisingly. Instead of guarding against the inclemency of the weather, they expose themselves to cold, without any coverture upon their breasts and necks. A Norwegian of an hundred years of age is not accounted past his labour. In 1733 four couples were married and danced before his Danish Majesty at Fredericshall, whose ages when joined exceeded 800 years. The Norwegian soldiers march with amazing expedition, especially in winter, by the assistance of their snow-shoes and skaits. The women wear close jackets, and girdles adorned with silver, and chains of the same around their necks, with gilt medals fixed to the ends: these silver trinkets form the ornament of a bride.

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“ The funeral ceremonies of the Norwegians contain vestiges of their former paganism : they play on the violin at the head of the coffin, and while the corpse is carried to the church.

“ On the coast of Norway is that dreadful whirlpool, called by navigators the navel of the sea, and by some maleström. When it is flood, the stream runs up the country, between Lofoden and the island of Moskoe, near 400 fathoms deep, with a boisterous rapidity ; and, when it is ebb, returns to the sea with a violence and noise unequalled by the loudest cataracts. It is heard at the distance of many leagues, and forms a vortex of great depth and extent ; so violent, that, if a ship comes near it, it is immediately drawn irresistibly into the whirl, and there disappears, being absorbed and carried down to the bottom in a moment, where it is dashed to pieces against the rocks : and just at the turn of ebb and flood,
when

when the water becomes still for about a quarter of an hour, it rises again in scattered fragments scarcely to be known for the parts of a ship. When it is agitated by a storm, it has reached vessels at the distance of more than a Norway mile, where the crews have thought themselves in perfect security. Perhaps it is hardly in the power of fancy to conceive a situation of more horror than of being thus driven forward by the sudden violence of an impetuous torrent to the vortex of a whirlpool, of which the noise and turbulence, still increasing as it is approached, are an earnest of quick and inevitable destruction; while the wretched victims, in an agony of despair and terror, cry out for that help which they know to be impossible, and see before them the dreadful abyss in which they are to be plunged and dashed among the rocks at the bottom.

“ Even animals, which have come too
near

near the vortex, have expressed the utmost terror, when they found the stream irresistible. Whales are frequently carried away; and the moment they feel the force of the water, they struggle against it with all their might, howling and bellowing in a frightful manner. The whole phenomena are the effects of the violence of the daily ebb and flood occasioned by the contraction of the stream in its course between the rocks.

“ By the best calculations Norway can furnish out 14,000 excellent seamen, and above 30,000 brave soldiers, for the use of the King, without hurting either trade or agriculture. The royal annual revenue from Norway amounts to about 200,000*l.* and the army, instead of being expensive, has often added considerably to his Majesty's income by the subsidies it brought him in from foreign princes.

“ The ancient Norwegians certainly were

were a brave and powerful people, and the hardiest seamen in the world. If we are to believe their histories, they were no strangers to America before it was discovered by Columbus.

“ That part of Lapland called Wardhuys, 288 miles in length, and 172 in breadth, belongs to Denmark. In Lapland, for some months in the summer the sun never sets, and during the winter it never rises; but the twilight and Aurora Borealis assist the inhabitants so well as to follow their employments at all seasons of the year. A vast mass of mountains, irregularly crowded together, separated in some interstices by rivers and lakes, which contain an incredible number of islands, cover the face of the country. The climate, in general, is excessively severe. The flat country consists of dreary forests, and unhealthy morasses; and nothing can be more uncomfortable than the state of the inhabitants. In
winter

winter it is no unusual thing for their lips to be frozen to the cup in attempting to drink; and in some thermometers spirits of wine are concreted into ice. The limbs of the inhabitants very often mortify with cold. Drifts of snow threaten to bury the traveller, and cover the ground four or five feet deep. A thaw sometimes takes place, and then the frost that succeeds presents the Laplander with a smooth level of ice, over which he travels in his sledge with incredible swiftness. The cataracts which dash from the mountains often present to the eye the most picturesque appearances. Beautiful chrystals are found here, as well as various sorts of mineral stones, surprisingly polished by the hand of Nature.

“ The zibelin, a creature resembling the marten, is a native of Lapland; and its skin, whether black or white, is so much esteemed, that it is frequently given as presents to royal personages. The country

country produces a large black cat, which attends the natives in hunting: but the most remarkable of the Lapland animals is the rein-deer, which Nature seems to have provided to solace the Laplanders for the privation of the other comforts of life. This animal, the most useful perhaps of any in the creation, resembles the stag, only it somewhat droops the head, and the horns project forward. In summer the rein-deer provide themselves with leaves and grass, and in the winter they live upon moss: they have a wonderful sagacity in finding it out, and when found they scrape away the snow that covers it with their feet. The scantiness of their fare is inconceivable, as is the length of the journeys which they can perform without any other support. They fix the rein-deer to a kind of sledge, sloped like a small boat, in which the traveller, well secured from cold, is laced down, with the reins in one hand, and a
kind

kind of bludgeon in the other, to keep the carriage clear of ice and snow. The deer, whose harnessing is very simple, sets out, and continues the journey with prodigious speed; and is so safe and tractable, that the driver is at no trouble in directing him. At night they look out for their own provender; and their milk often helps to support their master. Their instinct in chusing the road, and directing their course, can only be accounted for by their being well acquainted with the country in the summer months, when they live in the woods. Their flesh is a well-tasted food, whether fresh or dried: their skin forms excellent cloathing, both for the bed and the body: their milk and cheese are nutritive and pleasant: and their intestines and tendons supply their masters with thread and cordage.

“When they run about wild in the fields, they may be shot at as other game.

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The number of tame rein-deers of a Laplander forms the chief part of his riches.

“ With all their excellent qualities, however, they frequently grow restive, to the great danger of the driver and his carriage. They run at the rate of 200 miles a day, and their surprising speed seems owing to their impatience to get rid of their incumbrance.

“ The language of the Laplanders is barbarous. Learning has not penetrated into that frozen region; and they practise no other arts but those of absolute necessity. They have among them some religious seminaries, instituted by the Kings of Denmark; but the majority of them practise gross superstition and idolatries. They still retain the worship of many of the Teutonic gods, and have among them great remains of the Druidical institutions. They believe the transmigration of the soul.

“ Lapland is but poorly inhabited,
owing

owing to the general barrenness of its soil. The whole number of its inhabitants may amount to about 60,000. Both men and women are in general shorter by the head than more Southern Europeans. Maupertuis measured a woman, who was suckling her own child, whose height did not exceed four feet two inches. The men are ill-shaped and ugly, and their heads too large for their bodies. Every admittance to a female is purchased from her father by the lover with a bottle of brandy. After marriage the bridegroom is obliged to serve his father for four years. He then carries his wife and his fortune home. They have a remarkable aversion to war, and are never employed in any army.

“What is most remarkable in his Majesty’s German dominions is Gottorp, once famous for the magnificent palace of its Dukes, and for being the residence of the celebrated astronomer Tycho Brahe.

Brahe. Some of his planetary machines and globes are still remaining in one of the summer-houses of the palace."

"September 8, 1774.

"Dear P——n,

"AS I never had an opportunity to see the French at home, I have formed my opinion of this celebrated nation from my own observation on divers individuals who have lately condescended to visit foreign courts; and from the remarks of the most impartial French writers. Voltaire says, his countrymen have been censured, envied, and imitated, by all their neighbours, for two centuries past; and really his assertion is grounded on truth and experience. That they are a vain, ostentatious people, nobody can deny.

"In regard to their persons, the French are of the middle size, active, and well-proportioned; and perhaps more free

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than

than other nations in general from bodily infirmities. The nobility and gentry endeavour, and succeed, to excel their neighbours in exterior accomplishments. Their skill and gracefulness in the academical exercises of dancing, fencing, and riding according to the exact rules of a menage, give them that boasted pre-eminence.

“ A few of the princes of the blood, the highest nobility, and *fermiers généraux*, are more magnificent in their equipages and palaces than any of the English; but the other ranks of life are despicable, when compared to the riches, elegance, and opulence, of the middling people in England. They are, perhaps, the only people ever heard of, who have derived great utility from their vanity, which is a national weakness: it supports them in misfortunes, and impels them to actions to which true courage inspires other nations. The French may be characterized as being well-mannered rather than

than well-bred : they are indiscriminately complaisant and officious, but they seldom know how to adjust their behaviour to the situation and character of those they converse with. All is a repeated round of politeness, which, for want of discernment, becomes affected, often ridiculous, and always disgusting to sentimental people.

“ The French have been censured for insincerity ; but this is a fault which they possess in no greater degree than their neighbours ; and the imputation is generally owing to their excess of civility, which throws a suspicious light upon their candour. The French in private life have just as much value as other European nations, and have given as many proofs of generosity and disinterestedness ; but their faithless government has prepossessed the English and other nations against them. The French have given a polish to the manners, and

even virtues, of their neighbours. They have long possessed the lead in taste, fashion, and dress; but it seems now to be in the wane, and they look no longer on the English as barbarians. This alteration of opinion has not, however, taken its rise from their wits, their learned men, their courtiers, nor the middle ranks of life. The superior orders of men in France are of a different cast from those below them: they see with contempt the frivolousness of their court; and, however complying they may appear in public, when retired, they think and act for themselves. They saw, during the late war, with indignation, the management of their armies, their finances, and fleets, at the absolute disposal of an imperious mistress. Since the conclusion of the late peace, they have expressed a particular respect for the English nation. On account of our victories and acquisitions, they have paid us frequent visits; and
people

people of fashion in France now study the English language, and imitate them in their customs, amusements, dress, and buildings. They both imitate and admire our writers, whose works have equally contributed with our military reputation to raise the name of Great-Britain to that degree in which it has been held of late by foreign nations, and to render our language more universal, and even a necessary study among foreigners.

“The natural levity of the French is reinforced by the most preposterous education, and the example of a giddy people, engaged in the most frivolous pursuits. A Frenchman is by some ecclesiastic taught to read his mother-tongue and the elements of Latin; he learns to dance and to fence of the masters of those exercises; he becomes a complete connoisseur in dressing hair, and in adorning his own person, under

the hands and instructions of his barber and valet de chambre. If he learns to play upon the flute or the fiddle, he is altogether irresistible; but he piques himself upon being polished above the natives of any other country, by his conversation with the fair-sex. In the course of this communication, with which he is indulged from his tender years, he learns by rote the whole circle of French compliments; and these he throws out indiscriminately to all women without distinction, in the exercise of that kind of address distinguished by the name of gallantry: it is an exercise, by the repetition of which he becomes very pert, very familiar, and very impertinent. A Frenchman, in consequence of his mingling with the females, not only becomes acquainted, from his infancy, with all their customs and humours, but grows wonderfully alert in performing a thousand little offices which are overlooked by

by other men, whose time has been spent in making more valuable acquisitions: he attends at a lady's toilette, regulates the distribution of her patches, and advises where to lay on the paint: he squires her to every place she visits, either on business or pleasure, and, by dedicating his whole time to her, renders himself necessary to all occasions. Of all the coxcombs on the face of the earth a French *petit maître* is the most ludicrous and the most impertinent; and they are all *petits maîtres*, from the marquis who glitters in lace and embroidery, to the *garçon barbier*, who struts with his hair in a long queue, and his hat under his arm. A Frenchman would sooner part with his religion than his hair.

“ The faces of the French ladies are primed and painted to the very furthest verge of folly and extravagance. They make use of *fard* and vermilion to help a lead or faded complexion, to heighten

the graces or conceal the defects of Nature, as well as the ravages of Time. All the ladies of condition cannot appear without this badge of distinction. As for the fard, or white, with which their necks and shoulders are plaistered, their skins, being naturally brown or fallow, make this fashion in some measure excusable; but the rouge, which is daubed on their faces, from the chin up to the eyes, without the least art or dexterity, destroys all distinction of features, and conveys nothing but ideas of disgust and aversion. No married lady is admitted in any public assembly without this frightful mask; and this mark of distinction none of the lower class dare assume. The French affect freedom and wit, but their conversation is commonly confined to fashionable dresses and diversions. Adieu! Believe me always your friend.

MATILDA."

REMARKS

REMARKS of Queen MATILDA on the
REIGN of GEORGE II. with a Retro-
spect of the Transactions of his Time.

“GEORGE II. was a prince of inferior abilities to his father, and still more strongly attached to his dominions on the continent. His system was, like that of George I. to maintain foreign connections, by various subsidies granted to the German princes. The Earls of Granville and Chesterfield were the only men of genius employed under the government.

“Sir Robert Walpole’s endeavours were rather employed in maintaining his post, than being serviceable in it. His aims were turned only to serve himself and his friends: he procured a majority in the House of Commons by bribing the members; and, what was still worse, avowed the corruption: patriotism was ridiculed, and venality practised without

shame. Sir Robert was possessed of a phlegmatic unconcern for reproach, and a cool way of reasoning upon such logics as he desired to enforce. Without eloquence and elevation, he had the art to convince. He headed the court party, and the leaders of the opposite side were Mr. Pitt, Mr. Shippen, Sir William Wyndham, and Mr. Hungerford. The government, at the accession of Geo. II. owed more than thirty millions of money, and in a time of profound peace this sum was continually found to encrease. The majority of the members of the Lower House were a set of men who made the public wealth only subservient to private interest, and who grew powerful on the wrecks of their country.

“ A misunderstanding arose between the King and the Prince of Wales; a prince that was the darling of the people, and who professed his dislike both to the ministry and their venal measures.

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This formidable rival of Sir Robert Walpole, universally revered for his benevolence, candour, and humanity, was not then at liberty of exercising his public virtues. The Minister attempted to weaken the opposition, in bringing to his party a leader idolized by his adherents: a message was carried to his Royal Highness, importing, that, if the Prince would write a letter to the King, 40,000*l.* should be added to his revenue, 200,000*l.* given him to pay his debts, and suitable provision should be made in due time for all his followers. This, to a prince already involved in debt, from the necessity of keeping up his dignity, was a tempting offer; but he generously declined it, declaring he would accept no such conditions dictated to him under the influence of Sir Robert Walpole. When he entered into power, he resolved to despise that set of under-rate writers, who live by arraigning every ministry,

and disseminate scandal and abuse; but at last he found it necessary to employ a set of mean hirelings to answer calumny with calumny. He wanted judgment to distinguish genius, or none possessed of such a gift were mean enough to applaud his measures. From hence he took an implacable aversion to the press, which so severely exposed his corruption, and branded his follies. He was sensible that war would encrease the difficulties he had to encounter, and require expences which he wished to share in peace. In a nation, like England, of arts, arms, and commerce, war, at certain intervals, must be serviceable: it turns the current of wealth from the industrious to the enterprising. Never was joy more universal and sincere than that produced by Sir Robert Walpole's resignation.

“The expedition of Commodore Anson, which took up near three years, is a fine instance of the power of perseverance

verance in forcing fortune. He steered his course with five ships of the line, a frigate, and two store-ships, by the island of Madeira; proceeded to the Cape Verd islands, and sailed along the coasts of Brazil. He refreshed for some time at the island of St. Catharine; a spot that enjoys all the verdure and fruitfulness of those luxurious climates. From this place he set forward into the cold and tempestuous climates of the South, along the coast of Patagonia; and in about five months entered the famous straits of Magellan. After having suffered the most violent tempests, he doubled Cape Horn; the rest of his fleet were dispersed or wrecked; his crew deplorably disabled by the scurvy; and his own ship with difficulty arrived at the island of Juan Fernandez. In this delightful abode he remained for some time, where Nature seemed in some measure to console mankind for the calamities of their

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own avarice and ambition. In order to improve still further a retreat so highly favoured by Nature, he ordered several European seeds and fruits to be sown upon the island, which increased to a surprising degree. Here the Commodore was joined by one ship and a frigate of his fleet; and, advancing northward, he attacked the city of Payta by night. Having landed a few soldiers, they filled the whole town with terror and confusion. The governor of the garrison, and the inhabitants, fled on all sides. For three days the English kept possession of the town, and stripped it of all its treasure and merchandize, to an immense amount. Soon after, this small squadron came up as far as Panama, situated on the straits of Darien, upon the western side of the great American continent.

“Anson now only commanded two ships, the remainder having either put back to England, or been wrecked by the

UNFORTUNATE QUEEN. 231

the tempests. He placed all his hopes on taking one of those rich Spanish ships which trade between the Philippine islands on the Spanish Main. The Commodore traversed that great ocean lying between the Asiatic and American continents, in hopes of meeting this rich prize, which it was hoped would return at this time of the year from the East, and amply repay the adventurers for all their dangers and fatigues. Avarice thus became honourable, when pursued through peril and distress. But the scurvy once more visited his crew, now long kept at sea, and without fresh provisions. By this terrible disorder several of his men daily fell, and others were disabled. One of his ships becoming leaky, and the number of his hands decreasing, he set it on fire, in the middle of the ocean. His fleet being now reduced to one ship, called the Centurion, of 60 guns, and all the crew in the
most

most deplorable situation, he cast anchor on the deserted island of Tinian, which lies about half way between the Old and New World. The most romantic imagination cannot form a scene what Tinian naturally afforded; greens, groves, cascades, verdant fields, flowers, and enchanting prospects. This retreat saved the Commodore and his sea-beaten mariners, who found here clear and wholesome water, medicinal herbs, and other necessaries for refitting their shattered vessel. Thus refreshed, he went forwards towards China, passed by the kingdom of Formosa, and went up the river Canton, in order to careen the only ship that was now left him. His venturing once more back into the same ocean, where he had experienced such a variety of distress, testified his hardy and untameable spirit. Having put his vessel into good order, he again returned towards America. At length, on the 9th of

of June, 1743, he discovered the galleon he so ardently expected : this vessel was formed for the purpose of war and merchandize : it mounted 60 guns, with 500 men, while the crew of the Commodore did not exceed half that number ; but, by the superior skill of the English in naval affairs, the Spanish ship soon became the Centurion's prize. The conqueror now returned to Canton with his prize, from whence he proceeded to the Cape of Good Hope, and prosecuted his voyage to England, where he arrived in safety, with immense riches ; his last prize, with the different captures that had been made before, amounted to 630,000*l*. The Commodore, at his return, received all that honour which perseverance, skill, and fortitude deserve, and the King afterwards raised him to the dignity of the peerage, having become, in the direction of the Admiralty, the oracle consulted in all naval deliberations.

“ In

“ In 1743, the King of England arrived at the camp upon the river Mayne: the security of Hanover, and his engagements with the daughter of Charles VI. descended from an illustrious line of Emperors, almost stripped of her inheritance, stimulated the monarch's courage and generosity. The French having inclosed his army on every side, near a village called Dettingen, their natural impetuosity saved the English from perishing for want of subsistence. Instead of guarding the pass of a defile, their horse, under the Duke of Grammont, charged, with great fury, the English infantry, who received them with undaunted resolution, and obliged the assailants to give way, with the loss of about 5000 men. The King, who was possessed of that personal valour hereditary to the family, exposed himself to a severe fire of cannon, as well as musquetry; and in the midst of the ranks animated his troops

troops by his courage and example. The English had the honour of the day, but the French soon after took possession of the field of battle, treating the wounded English that were left behind with a clemency and humanity unprecedented in ancient history.

“The Duke of Cumberland, who commanded the allies in Flanders, wanted that skill, coolness, and experience, without which intrepidity borders upon rashness. His antagonist, Count Saxe, was originally a foldier of fortune, and natural son to Augustus, King of Poland, by the famous Countess of Königsmark. He had been bred from his youth in camps, and had shewn the most early instances of cool intrepidity: he was possessed of great military talents; and, by long habit, preserved an equal composure in the middle of battle, as in a drawing-room at court. At the battle of Fontenoy, though the British infantry

try bore down all opposition, and were, for near an hour, victorious. Marshal Saxe, who was at that time sick, visited all the posts in a litter, and saw, notwithstanding all appearances, that the day was his own. Though the French bought dear their victory, it gave them a manifest superiority during the continuance of the war.

“ At this period young Charles-Edward, son of the old Pretender, resolved to ascertain, by arms, the obsolete claims of his family to the British crown. The adventurer in question had been bred in a luxurious court, without sharing its effeminacy ; he was enterprising and ambitious, but, either from inexperience or inability, unequal to the undertaking. He was flattered by the rash, the needy, and superstitious, that the kingdom was ripe for a revolt, and that the more considerable persons in the realm would crowd to his standard. France fanned his ambition,

bition, from which they hoped to gain some advantage. Fortune, which ever persecuted his family, seemed no ways more favourable to him. After having narrowly escaped being taken in his passage to Scotland, he landed in the eastern parts of that kingdom, and was joined by some chiefs of the Highland clans, and their vassals. The boldness of this enterprise awakened the fears of the pusillanimous, the pity of the wise, and the loyalty of all. The young adventurer marched to Perth, where the old Chevalier his father was proclaimed King of Great Britain. The rebels advancing towards Edinburgh, the pageantry of proclamation was also performed in this capital. Sir John Cope had the mortification to be totally defeated by these new and undisciplined ravagers. Among the Lords who espoused his cause, was the old Lord Lovat, who exerted all the arts of low cunning to appear

appear an open enemy to the rebellion, yet to give it secret assistance.

“This enterprising youth, having made an irruption into England, invested Carlisle, which surrendered in three days. There he was declared King of Great-Britain. But, after he had advanced within a hundred miles of the capital, he determined to retreat once more to Scotland.

“The rebels, advancing in full spirits, attacked the King's army near Falkirk. The Pretender, who stood in the front line, gave the signal to fire; and the first volley served to put General Hawley's forces into confusion. The greatest part of the royal army fled with the utmost precipitation, leaving the field of battle, with part of their tents and artillery, to the rebels. This was the end of all their triumphs.

“The Duke of Cumberland, at that time the

the favourite of the English army, had put himself at the head of the troops in Scotland: he marched forward, while the young adventurer retired at his approach. The rebels were totally void of counsel and subordination, without conduct, and without expectation. The Duke, at length, came in sight of the enemy, drawn in battle array in the plain of Culloden. In less than thirty minutes they were totally routed, and the field covered with their wounded and slain, to the number of about 3000 men. Civil war, in itself, is dreadful; as the victors seldom spare the suppliant in the height of rage and cruelty, stimulated by mutual prejudices and animosity. The conquerors refused mercy to wounded and defenceless wretches, instead of making this complete victory glorious by acts of humanity. This sunk all the hopes and ambition of the young adventurer: this decisive action deprived him of imaginary
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thrones and sceptres, and reduced him from a nominal King to a distressed forlorn outcast, shunned by all mankind, except such as sought to take his life. After his defeat, the whole country round was one scene of slaughter and desolation; and vengeance sharpened the sword of justice. The unhappy fugitive wandered from mountain to mountain a wretched spectator of all these horrors and calamities in which his ill-guided ambition had involved this distracted land. In this manner he wandered amongst frightful wilds near six months, seeking for refuge in caves, cottages, and forests, till a vessel hired by his adherents saved him from the horrors of captivity and death. Among the martyrs to this desperate attempt, Lord Balmerino, who had from his youth been bred to arms, and invariably adhered to his erroneous principles, suffered with the most daring fortitude. Thus ended a rebellion dictated
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by youth and presumption, and conducted without judgment and resolution: and the family of Stewart found fortune become more averse at every new solicitation of her favours.

“ The act for preventing clandestine marriages, and for the public solemnization of that ceremony, made distinctions amongst the people, and laid an unpassable line between the rich and the poor. This law was thought replete with consequences injurious to society, and experience has manifested some of them. Women have been deceived by unprincipled seducers, and left without redress; and the wealth of the nation has been more liable to accumulation in opulent families. Thus an institution of the most infinite advantage to society has been clogged with procrastination and delay.

“ Another act, equally unpopular, and perhaps no less injurious to the reli-

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gion of the community, was the law for naturalizing the Jews, to whom greater favour was shewn by this bill than to other Christian sects. An introduction of that people into the kingdom would have disgraced the character of the nation, and cooled the zeal of the natives for public worship, already too neglected. The bill, however, passed into a law; but public clamours convinced its promoters of the necessity of its repeal.

“ The game-act was equally unpopular; as it damped all that martial spirit among the lower class, by forbidding the use of those arms which might one day be necessary to defend their country, and gave the rich the sole enjoyment of a pleasure which before had been considered as the common privilege of humanity.

“ The encroachments of the French in North-America having awakened the jealousies and apprehensions of the English

lish ministry, General Braddock was recommended to this service by the Duke of Cumberland, justly sensible of his courage and skill in the art of war; but his valour made him obstinate, and his military knowledge became useless in a country where war was carried on by ambuscades and skirmishes, without regular advances and pitched battles. This enthusiast to the discipline of the field marched without precaution through a wild country equally dangerous from its vast forests and savage inhabitants. He advanced with intrepidity through immense deserts, taking no care previously to explore the woods, and without endeavouring to get intelligence of an enemy, he seemed to despise. With this confidence he had entered with his troops a defile, when his whole army was astonished by a general discharge of arms from an unseen enemy; the consternation soon became general; the officers alone

disdained to fly, while Braddock himself at their head discovered the greatest intrepidity and the highest imprudence. Though his officers fell thick about him, he never thought of retreating. Having had five horses shot under him; and at length, receiving a musket-shot through the lungs, he dropped, and a total confusion ensued. In this expedition, fortune, misconduct, and rashness, equally concurred to this unfortunate man's disgrace and overthrow.

“Admiral Byng's pusillanimous conduct in the Mediterranean, having reached his native country, excited universal indignation and resentment. The ministry were thought to fan the flame, which served to turn the public eye from their own misconduct in sending so weak an armament. Byng had acquired some reputation in naval operations, but his character in the navy was by no means established. This unfortunate commander sacrificed

sacrificed the last to the hopes of being applauded for his conduct. Having been tried, and sentenced to be shot, the Admiral, abandoned to his fate, resolved to shew, by the intrepid serenity he maintained to the last, the injustice of the imputation of cowardice. He advanced to the place appointed for execution with a composed step and resolute countenance, and met death with the same undaunted resolution. It was cruelty to condemn him for an error of judgment, which deserved no other punishment but his dismissal; but the unhappy man had been resolved on as a sacrifice.

“Frederic III. King of Prussia, a prince adorned with all the arts of peace, acting also as a consummate General, was the only powerful ally England had in the last war. His operations were astonishing, yet produced no very signal effects. Almost the whole power of the Continent was exerted against, and hovering over,

his devoted dominions. In this terrible situation he still adhered to his fortitude, often victorious, sometimes repulsed, but ever active and formidable. To name his victories, the towns he took, the dangers he escaped, and the losses he suffered, would fill a volume. Never was the art of war carried to such a pitch as by him. Europe saw with astonishment campaigns carried on in the midst of the winter; great and bloody battles fought, yet producing no advantages to the victors. Armies were now considered as composing one single machine, directed by the General, and animated with one will. From the commentary of these campaigns succeeding Generals will take their lessons for devastation, and improve in the arts of increasing human calamity!

“ In America the taking of Quebec was committed to the conduct of General Wolfe. This young soldier, without being indebted to family or connections, had

had raised himself by merit to a distinguished command. He carried on all the terrors of war with the humanity of a true civilized European. Wolfe, though sinking under fatigue and sickness, resolved to conquer or die in a last attempt upon the capital of the French empire in America. Montcalm, the French commander, was determined not to survive the defeat of his country! Both commanders had their wish, both fell in battle; but the English were victorious; and Wolfe, like Epaminondas, died happy, when, struggling in the agonies of death, he heard the enemy were routed. The conquest of Canada could not make amends to the nation for the loss of such a man.

“ George II. died full of years, in the midst of victory, happy in the peculiar mode and time of his death. None of his predecessors on the throne of England lived to so great an age, or enjoyed longer felicity.

felicity. His subjects improved under him in commerce and arts. He was true to his word, steady in his favour and protection, and through the whole of his life appeared rather to live for the cultivation of useful virtues than splendid ones..”

THE Editor could not procure more letters and fragments of Queen Matilda's composition. What he issues out to the public proves sufficiently her taste for literature, her knowledge of history and geography, her philosophic turn of mind in the bloom of youth and height of grandeur, and her noble and liberal sentiments. For those who live at a distance from royal personages, there is no other method of judging of their genius and characters

characters than by the report of those who have a free access to them, and by their writings. The life of Queen Matilda chiefly appears in her literary correspondence, and her Majesty's domestic and unreserved intercourse.

Though her good sense, and the indignities she had suffered on the throne, had reconciled her to a private station, yet her bodily frame had been visibly impaired by the repeated shocks of outrages which she had borne with that manly fortitude, the result of innocence. The uncertainty of her dear childrens fate, and the very thought of their being for ever precluded from her sight, daily preyed upon her comfortless soul. No other retrospect whatever gave her the least uneasiness. "Was it not, said her Majesty often to the ladies of her household, for this cruel separation, I should be content and happy; but this is more than I can bear."

On

On the first symptoms of the malignant fever, which snatched her from this censorious and merciless world in the prime of youth, Matilda declared, with calmness and resignation, to her attendants, that she did not expect to survive this malady; and before it grew worse she wrote two letters with her own hand, one to his Britannic Majesty, and the other to the King of Denmark. After they were sealed, she said, with tears in her eyes, "I hope the King my brother will protect my friendless children, and that the King of Denmark will do my memory that justice he denied me whilst living. I freely forgive my persecutors and enemies, and wish to die in peace with all the world and my conscience." Her Majesty continued to the last in these pious and edifying sentiments, comforting herself all those who beheld with grief and admiration their royal mistress in the agonies of death. She preserved her

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her senses within a few minutes of this awful moment, except in the delirious intervals of her illness. She expired the fifth day of this violent disorder, which baffled all the skill of her physicians, the 10th of May, 1775, about midnight, before she had accomplished her 24th year, universally lamented by all ranks of people in her native country, who had sympathized with her disasters, vindicated her innocence, and detected her accusers. The inhabitants of Zell experienced her beneficence, and grieved for her loss. The King of Denmark, conscious of the flagrant injustice he had done to his spotless consort, was not allowed to mourn publicly for this royal victim of malice, vengeance, and calumny; but the Danes will revere the ashes of this ill-fated Queen. The levities of her youth are already forgot, but her virtues and her sufferings will be transmitted to the latest posterity. The body
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of this unhappy Queen, attended by sixteen Captains, was carried in a hearse and six, between a double line of soldiers, to the church of Zell, and interred in the royal vault.



THE END.

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